

PEN AND PENCIL

AN ILLUSTRATED FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1855.

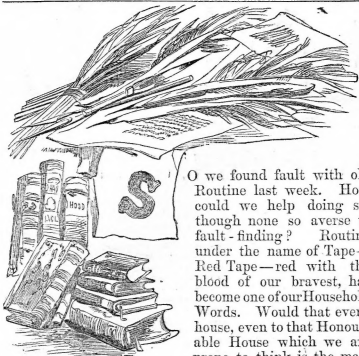
[Price 6d.]



SCHOOLS OF ART, NO. 2. THE CAT, BY MIERIS. (See page 44.)

PEN AND PENCIL.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1855.



O we found fault with old Routine last week. How could we help doing so, though none so averse to fault-finding? Routine under the name of Tape—Red Tape—red with the blood of our bravest, has become one of our Household Words. Would that every house, even to that Honourable House which we are prone to think is the master

of our Government and the representative of us, the people, could be rid of the intolerable mischief. And Routine shows worse than ever this week; putting his ugly hoof into the very Church. For what is it but Routine that leads the Bishop of London to put off till the third Sunday in Lent the public offering up of our "united prayer and intercession, for the safety and success of our brethren now serving in our armies and fleets." Nay, but this is not good. Prayer, like action, should be prompt. Oh! out upon you, old Routine! let us pray for our brethren long before the third Sunday in Lent.

If Routine dare invade the sanctuary, small marvel that Downing Street should not be spared its hindrances. What else is it but Routine, ruining Palmerston the Desired, that can only give us for a Newcastle a Panmure: the worse man of the two, says Tom Duncombe, little disposed to be complimentary to either? What else but Routine that still maintains the sexagenarian policy, throwing out the possibly capable for the merely old; that would make a farce of Roebuck's committee; that sends Lord Raglan a nurse instead of a successor; and appoints commissioners with only power to report? Routine is bent upon our ruin, and surely need not have much trouble when the remains of our army can not defend its trenches; but, abandoning the siege, falls back in French uniform, as the reserve of the French army, leaving to our allies the glory of the next attempt upon Sebastopol.

Is it not Routine also, that, after all which has been sworn to in the Irish Court of Chancery, sworn to and rebutted only by an insufficient denial, permits the "most noble" Marquis of Clanricarde, the guardian of Mrs. and the Misses Handcock, to remain a peer of the realm and a Privy Councillor of a Queen against whom scandal's tongue has never dared to wag. Ah, but Routine invested Aberdeen with the appropriate motto, read towards him as a curse—*Honi soit qui mal y pense*. And Routine denies an order of merit to the heroes of Inkerman and Balaklava; Routine will not even allow the hero knighted by the more discriminating Sultan to wear his spurs in aristocratic England. Out on you, Routine! we say again; far better was the heart-prompting that checked a few poor wounded soldiers at the palace. But the nation, too, should thank; and not only thank, but munificently reward the remnants of the Crimean blunder. Reward the men who have done their duty; reward also, and not with garters or medals, but according to their deserts, those who have not done their duty. That rule applied with any degree of strictness would leave little occasion for Lord Goderich's motion for depriving Routine of the gift or sale of commissions.

How refreshing to escape sometimes from the orderly tram-road, whether it be an escape like that of Gladstone and his fellow Peelite, running away from Palmerston as if the good man had the plague; or the more serious outbreak of the wild-life Zouaves, tired of starving in the trenches and longing for the dashing leadership of a—Lamoriecière. Is it "wicked" to speak lightly of these weighty matters? But is the fitting of a Ministerial section so important? Were Gladstone's finances likely to save the nation? Is Mr. Sidney Herbert a minister to be much regretted at the present time? or Sir James Graham a man to be regretted at all? And then the advantage of the brilliant talents of Messrs. Wood and Cardwell. Lord Palmerston's Coalition will have all the talents; and one man of business among them, if unlordly Mr. Baines go to the Home Office. Of the Zouaves we might speak more seriously, but that, in the first place, their mutinous disposition is most strenuously denied by those who must know all about it; and, in the second, any event that would stir Europe from its apathy and bring this crawling war to a direct issue seems too desirable a matter for one to cavil at the manner of its bringing forth.

O, Routine! you are shamefully beaten; Louis Bonaparte will go to the Crimea, and be present at the taking of Sebastopol. Only two things give room for doubt. It is but Gossip that says he will go, and the Tzar may yet be stronger than his opponent. If the course flow thitherward it may become advisable to ask help of the "nationalities," for all our Premier's insolent assurances,

and for all Lord Ellenborough's dreams of a magnificent Indian diversion. We repeat, notwithstanding Committees and Commissions of Inquiry, new old ministers, new old generals, and new old admirals to boot, notwithstanding real improvements in the weather, in the transport service, in the commissariat, and in our hospitals, the Sebastopol expedition yet remains a blunder, yet may end in disaster—only one way to be retrieved. For the failure, lay it on whom we will, is not merely administrative. There is a radical error in our policy, and till that be altered, no Government, no reform, can save us. The Aberdeen anti-hurt-Russia policy is still the root of all our sorrow. Flung that policy to the winds; trust Italy rather than Piedmont, Poland before Austria; leave Sebastopol as a mistake,—there can be no shame cast upon the besiegers,—take your revenge in a vital part, and strike the Russian to the heart. This is a policy not to suit the rapid children of Red Tape. Is it unworthy of a great and free people, when that people shall awaken from its torpor?

It is time that it awakened. The long-deferred blockade has spared Russia; but we are blockaded to all intents and purposes. Reforms left unfinished, and what affects us more, our trade all utterly stagnating. And what is to be done with the thousands and tens of thousands of our operatives, at work for six shillings a-week, or out of work and starving. The hard frost will pass away and bread riots be put down, but distress passes not so easily. What are we to do with the hosts of Bankruptcy and Famine? Our jauntty Premier, and his "gouty" Minister of War, may doubt the distress that will not follow a recruiting serjeant. It is because, though war against Russia is popular, this method of war is not popular.

Let your war be one of principle, one really for the right; show yourselves ready to treat men as men, and to give heroic deeds to heroes even of the lowest grade; and you will have no need to lament the failure of your Foreign Enlistment Bill. In the camp and at our hearths there is a spirit moving which calls for change. Does the *Times* cry in the streets when there are none to regard it? Read the *Times* of last week. The red glare of the *Times*' leaders illumines the cold heights of etiquette as the fires at Blackfriars and at Southampton lit up last week's snow. And even the very Emperor's Palace at Prague has fallen. The soothsayer looks to omens.

The week has not been without events. Two old men, representatives of the past, are gathered into the grave. Khosrof Pasha, the last of the antique Turks, and Joseph Hume, the first of financial reformers—the last of the old-time Radicals. Old parties indeed are dying out. An old sexagenarian or two, playing fantastic tricks upon their sepulchre, can not revive the passing time. It is well that parties are dying out, that even Lord Palmerston can not get up another coalition. Tories, Whigs, and Radicals are now words without meaning; give us honest and capable men to rule us. We shall have such rulers, not next week, however they may pick the Houses, but when we ourselves, as a people, are honest and more capable: a condition which will be in some way forwarded when there shall be no further impediments in the way of acquiring knowledge. Knowledge may not be wisdom, yet it is a step towards it, and a free press must be the harbinger of national education.



PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The week began with trouble for Government—Ministers struggling into a Committee of Supply through several of those ordinary obstructions which, if the Government had been really strong, might have been expected to be waived in making room for such an object as the Army Estimates. The last obstacle was not the smallest. Mr. LAYARD stood forward to make a statement of the present political aspect of affairs. When the House was called upon to vote for £7,100,000 to support, maintain, and recruit our army, it was necessary to consider the state of things under which a victorious army had dwindled down to 10,000 men. Mr. Roebuck's motion for inquiry was carried by the feeling of the country against the individual opinion of some members who voted for the Government went out of; for some days no Government could be formed; and then they found a "new" Administration in office, almost identically composed of the same individuals as the last; and to that Government, the same as the last, from whom confidence had been withheld, they were now asked to intrust the conduct of the war. They had the same Admiralty as that which had caused immense mischief in the management of blockade, and under which the transport system had been thrown into utter confusion. The melancholy conferences at Vienna have disgraced the diplomatic body, and have led to a war which might have been prevented by a bolder policy. When our army is starving, or fed on French bread and clothed in French clothes, the country is not satisfied to be told by Government that the army is revelling in luxuries and protected from the weather. During the short session, Government urged the immediate passing of the Foreign Enlistment Bill, but scarcely a man has been engaged under its provisions,

while the delay in taking advantage of it, and the arming of the continental governments, will totally shut us out from that source. We have neither a new government nor a new programme, nothing but a series of commissioners to go out and inquire; but what are those commissioners? At the head of the commission for examining the commissariat is an eminent Peninsular officer, now seventy years old, who will probably lose his life in the tedious service, and who certainly loses his reputation, for he will be unable to cure the evil, and the blame will remain upon him. At the head of the transports at Balaklava is "old Captain Christie," seventy years old. The country wants not commissions but a man—not a man chosen because he is seventy years old, because he is a member of Brook's, or has voted for Government, but one of the class and stamp of men to the duties required of him. Better ballot a general officer, say out of the Artillery corps, and probably the ballot-box there would unanimously return but one name. If you find a man incompetent, recall him. Do not put over him a gentleman to manage his staff, nor lay the blame on the House of Commons for not having voted supplies that were not asked in peace time, for the House votes all the supplies that are asked. Do not select superannuated officers, and pass over those who have saved your colonies; and, above all, let the country know what Lord John is about to do at Vienna. Are the four points to be still the basis of negotiation? Is Lord John to accept a peace on any terms? If hostilities are to be prolonged, will they allow oppressed nationalities to be engaged on our behalf, or will the Government, by fearing to take the necessary steps, be permitting family considerations to fetter their course of action, allow England to become the laughing-stock of the whole world? Unless Lord Palmerston really threw himself into the task that he has undertaken, the country would want to see itself governed by something new; for a Cavendish in the cabinet may be a very important thing, but the public thinks more of a man who lives than of that which dies. The Cavendish and other speakers of much mark in this debate were General PEREZ, who denied the responsibility of the aristocracy, but complained that too much had been thrown upon an army too small for its business; and Lord PALMERSTON, who complained that Mr. Layard mingled with his observations vulgar declamations against the aristocracy. Lord PALMERSTON vindicated the aristocracy by pointing out that the aristocracy was the officers in the Crimea. He challenged Mr. Layard to produce the cabinet that he would desire to see the Queen appoint, and declared that Government was bent upon succeeding in securing the greatness of the country, either through peace or through force of arms. A few more speeches, and then the House having gone into committee of supply, Mr. Peet brought forward an estimate of the amount of a speech of much length and little interest. The number of men will be larger than that of last year by 35,869, or allowing for non-enlistment last year, by 40,000; and Government will take authority to enlist 60,000 more, to fill up vacancies. The total at present will be 178,645, exclusively of the troops in India, the foreign corps, and the embodied militia. The charge for the effective land forces will be £7,000,000, an excess over last year of £2,630,000; embodied militia £3,813,000, total £13,721,000. The total strength of the army, exclusive of artillery, and of troops in India, but including 14,950 foreigners, will be 193,595 of all ranks. Mr. Peel's statement was followed by some debate.—Mr. WILLIAMS checked the items of the account, and objected to Prince Albert's pay of £2000, when Sir De Lacy Evans, Sir Colin Campbell, and General Brown only receive £1100 a year each.—Mr. BENTINCK objected, not to the amount for supporting an army, but to the immense expenditure in starving an army.—Colonel Knox deprecated the miserable petting of Mr. Williams; who has always, observed Lord SEYMOUR, been in a minority when he proposed to reduce the amount below the Government.—Mr. HENRY BULLOCK read an account of the cavalry horses started to death.—Sir ESKINE PERRY took his side by Mr. Layard, declaring a dissatisfaction at the plan propounded, and he drew attention to the miserable sums paid for soldiers clothing—10d. for a great coat, and so on; and the small allowance of military servants.—Mr. LAYARD demanded better treatment for the men, and pointed out that the cavalry was irregular cavalry neglected by our Government.—Mr. JOHN MACROBORN, Mr. RICH, Mr. DUNSMON, and Mr. NEWDEGATE lectured Government on several other points; and then a long speech from Lord PALMERSTON in defensive reply. His points were that the fleets in the Baltic had not done nothing; for, beside the taking of Bomarsund, they had shut up the Russian fleets that might have ravaged our commerce; that Sebastopol was the strongest hold of Russia in the Black Sea, and that the constriction was not without its effect; that several improvements had been effected recently, such as the separation of the transport corps from the commissariat; and that some difficulties were unavoidable calamities, such as the loss of twenty days' forage for the horses in the Crimea. The foreign corps had not been formed, because the language levelled in the House at "mercenary troops, Germans, and heaven knows who," had created an adverse feeling on the continent. However, he agreed in many of Mr. Layard's positions, and promised better tents for the army in the ensuing campaign. As to the "aristocracy," it is not there that the system is broken down. The evil is in the medical department, transport department, the commissariat department, &c.—departments not filled up by the sons of the aristocracy or gentry. Lord Palmerston was confident, however, that government would be able to send into the field an army of which the country would be proud, and whose achievements would deserve the thanks of Parliament.

This was followed by a little debate on coffee, in which Mr. WILSON said that coffee was originally a superfluity, first served out to men at the café, and given entire, as it did not spoil so speedily in that condition. Before resuming, the House made some progress in voting the Estimates.

The next business was the passing of the following resolution by the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, without debate, as the basis of a bill, to be explained upon introduction.—"That it is expedient to repeal the exemption of newspapers from postage duty; and to charge on newspapers and printed books and papers transmitted by post rates of postage not exceeding 1d. for every four ounces in weight, and for any fractions, part of four ounces. That it is expedient to alter and amend the laws relating to the stamp duties on

newspapers, the printing and publishing of newspapers, and registration and giving security in connection therewith, and the regulation of the duties of postage on printed papers."

The East and West India Dock Bill, extending powers and privileges of the Dock Companies, was thrown out by 249 to 26.

The London Dock and St. Katharine Dock Bills were withdrawn.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

LORD PARNMURE moved, without remark, the second reading of the Army Service Corps Amendment Bill, the main objects of which are to permit the recruiting of men of a more advanced age than those sanctioned by the present law, and to provide for the re-enlistment of discharged soldiers.—LORD ELLENBOROUGH called for an explanation of the measure, especially as it would be stringent, and ought not to be unlimited in period; and took the opportunity of reviewing the actual state of military affairs. He pointed out that, besides the 60,000 recruits required to complete the establishment according to the army estimates, at least 30,000 more would be required to keep up the establishment to the end of the current year. He also held that the militia ought to be kept to its full complement, as a reserve to the army. In preference to the ballot, perhaps a fine upon unions would do better than their quota, might be useful. He objected to the immediate recruiting of men in regiments, which sometimes amount to 2200 men, and are too large to be handled by regimental officers. Congratulating Lord Clarendon upon having signed the treaty with Piedmont—whose king, government, people, and army, justified the highest praises—and the treaty with Turkey for the employment of Turks, Lord Ellenborough pressed upon Government the necessity of making the most of the employment diversions in the war with Russia. He would use the resources of India, whence 48 guns, an admirable native artillery, and an excellent irregular cavalry, could be drawn without inconvenience. He would affect a diversion against Russia in Georgia, rendering the Circassians available by a combined action.—LORD H. saw difficulty, calling for the aid of the opposition, if the bill was to be carried.

The reply of LORD PARNMURE was rather to specific points than to the larger policy of his opponents. He explained that the regiments will be divided into two battalions each, under its lieutenant and major, a plan facilitating the arrangement of reserves—for the half of the regiment, 1000, to be in the field; 4000 is some convenient entry-point, say in the Mediterranean, and 6000 is the number of men in the aggressive views for the war, and therefore could make no use of the "nationalities," and met the suggestion of Lord Ellenborough, with regard to the employment of Indian forces, by the necessity of considering the occupation of India herself. He admitted that the militia regiments did not furnish all the recruits that might be expected, and he said that if necessary compulsion would be used for recruiting the ranks of Her Majesty's service, in order to enable the war to be carried on with vigour.—LORD MALMESBURY, supported by Lord GREY, deprecated any departure from the original understanding with which the people enlisted in the militia; and Lord GREY insisted upon higher inducements as a means for recruiting the army, such as a bounty on re-enlistment, &c. But he deprecated the idea of re-establishing Poland. The Poles had the same faults now as they had when they could not defend their independence.—The Earl of HAREWOOD reminded Lord GREY that he had forgotten John Sobieski, the saviour of Germany.—LORD ELLENBOROUGH received more or less of support from the Earl of EGLINTON, Lord COLCHESTER, and Earl FITZWILLIAM. The bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

MR. SERJEANT SHEE moved for leave to bring in a bill to provide compensation for removing tenants. The bill would give the tenant a right to compensation for possible and undeniable improvements on erection.—SIR JOHN YOUNG did not oppose the motion, and leave was given.—MR. SOTHERON then moved the second reading of the bill to read a second time after the 1st day of July, without special leave; that this House will not allow any bill to continue an act about to expire to be read a second time after Easter, without special leave; that orders of the day have precedence of notices of motions on every day of the week after Whitsuntide. Afterwards, MR. SOTHERON said that he would except the bills of the House of Lords. Several members objected to the obstructive effect which the resolution would have, particularly as it is not easy to calculate the nights when supply would come on; and LORD PALMERSTON showed how easy it would be to evade it, to take the stage which the motion was intended to prohibit. The motion was withdrawn.

After several minor motions had been disposed of, MR. COLLIER moved for a return of the Russian exports to this country during the past year, and made a statement for the purpose of showing that the blockade of Russian ports during 1854 had not been effectual, but that its object ought to be attained. The blockade very slightly restricted Russian commerce. English money in return for Russian exports from Russia had been sent out to the amount of £10,000,000 instead of £11,000,000 in 1853. The shipments of linseed from the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov were made upon an unprecedented scale. The introduction of the Russian wheat and Greeks taking up the trade which the ordinary merchants abandoned, because they thought that the blockade would be effectual. The trade in hemp and tallow comes through Prussia; entailing, by that circuitous route, a further cost to this country of £2,500,000, besides the expense of keeping up an unsuccessful blockade. MR. COLLIER touched upon various matters connected with the blockade effectual; such as compelling Prussia to maintain her neutrality, enforcing the right of search, and prohibiting the admission of Russian produce into this country. He believed the last would be effectual; and he read various evidences to show that Russian produce could be obtained from other countries—hemp from Ireland and Italy, and tallow from Australia.—MR. MITCHELL, a Russian merchant, confirmed this view; and stated that the Russian nobility, the loss of military power and the Russian suffering in income by the war taxes, the stoppage of their rent, the removal of labour through the conscription, and the obstruction of trade—influences which would be strengthened by rendering the blockade effectual.—MR. CARDWELL admitted that the blockade in the Black Sea was not effectual; for the communications with the allies upon the subject had im-

peded the earlier measures, and hence some of the evasions. The trade with Russia, however, was seriously curtailed: the diminution in hemp alone was 53 per cent.; in tallow, 62. Messrs. Cattley and Co. report that it had caused dis-encouragement and dissatisfaction in St. Petersburg; but any further restriction upon the trade, especially by prohibiting the importation of produce into this country, besides rendering necessary some system of certificates which had failed in the last war, would hinder the British manufacturer, and perhaps send away our manufactures to Germany. At present the restriction is carried on entirely without distinction, without privilege or licence, inflicting a maximum of injury on the enemy, with a minimum of injury on this country.—MR. COLLIER'S view was sustained by MR. RICHARDS, MR. SOTHERON, and MR. HEADLAM; that of Government by LORD DUNCAN and MR. DUNCAN.—SIR JAMES GRAHAM interjected a brief explanation, to show that there had been no Admiralty neglect. There was no opposition to the motion, and the return was ordered.

Leave was given to MR. DUNLOP to bring in a bill to facilitate the erection of dwelling-houses for the working classes in Scotland.

At the request of LORD PALMERSTON, in the absence of MR. SIDNEY HERBERT, who was indisposed, Lord Goldrich postponed his resolution upon Army Reform until Thursday the 1st of March.

MR. PHILIMORE brought in a bill for the appointment of public prosecutors.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

SIR B. HALL, in moving the second reading of the Nuisances Removal and Prevention of Diseases Acts Amendment Bill, stated that since the introduction of the measure, it had been so modified as to have its operation restricted to England and Wales. Special bills on the subject were probably to be moved for Scotland and Ireland. Some comments and suggestions upon different points of detail presented in the measure were offered by LORD SEYMOUR, MR. HENLEY, MR. WILLIAMS, and other members.—The bill was then read a second time.—The Public Health Bill was also read a second time.

The Common Law Procedure Act Amendment (Ireland) Bill went through committee.

Several supply votes were agreed to by the House, including £17,185,000 to pay off Exchequer Bills; £2,000,000 from the Consolidated Fund towards the service of the ensuing year; and £1,300,000 from the same fund to make good deficiencies in the grants for the financial year ending on the 31st of March next.

The Army Service Corps Amendment Bill was moved forward by MR. F. PERCY, and after a few words from COL. FORRESTER and LORD SEYMOUR, read a second time.

Colonel NORTH called the attention of the House to the regulations of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, so far as they regarded the admission of the sons of deceased officers. The hon. and gallant member suggested that the sons of deceased officers should be granted free admission to the college, but postponed any motion on the Speaker intimating that, as it involved a question of money, it could only be brought forward in a committee of the whole House.

Leave was given to MR. WHITEHEAD to introduce several bills relating to reforms in the Irish Court of Chancery.

THE WAR.

JOURNAL OF THE SIEGE.

We continue our journal of the war, collating the reports of the various newspaper correspondents published during the past week.

JAN. 30.—The Russians have entered into an agreement to cease firing, whenever a white flag indicates a burial in front of the batteries. A humane and civilized arrangement; it should have been made long ago. An order has been issued, that no flags are to be sent out without the sanction of the Commander-in-chief. This last order arose from the fact, that an officer in the Line, on his own responsibility, sent out a flag of truce a short time since, to demand back his servant and his baggage which had fallen into the enemy's hands. The Russian general restored the man and the officer's papers; but the available baggage shared the fortunes of war. By the same order, all flags of truce are to be sent through the French works to the angle of the cemetery works. Admiral Boxer has arrived, and will take the command of the harbour of Balaklava. The harbour and town are both in better condition than they were.

JAN. 31.—A spy walked through some of the trenches to-day, counted the guns, and made what observations he pleased, besides getting information from the men with whom he conversed. He was close shaven, and wore a blue frock-coat buttoned up to the chin, so that some said he was a Frenchman, and others a doctor. No one suspected that he was a spy till he suddenly rushed down the front of the battery to the Russian pickets, by wonderful good luck escaping through a sharp fire of musketry that rattled after him. The Russians are peculiarly active in their art of spying. The ingenuity of their disguises and their boldness give them a high rank in this branch of warfare. Since this last daring venture strict orders have been given to admit no one into the trenches or works without a written permission from the authorities, and to arrest and send to divisional head-quarters, for examination, all persons loitering about the camp without any manifest business there.

One of our spies who went out on the road towards Belbek, has returned with an account of Russian matters as far as Simpheropol. He says that the enemy are in some force along the route, but that their cavalry is in a wretched condition, their horses lying dead in hundreds all over the country. It was a work of some danger to get so far, but our man performed his task well, and has not been uselessly employed. The English and our allies have established a sort of good-fellowship with the Russian pickets, consisting in mutual acts of forbearance that come out pleasantly from amidst all the horrors and brutality of war time. One day our allies came upon three Russian cavalry horses, tied up to a tree, and the officer in command ordered them not to be touched. On the same day a Chasseur had his belt and armband and helmet taken from him in the ruined Cossack picket-house, and naturally gave up all hope of recovering them, but on his next visit he found them on the wall untouched. To requite this act of forbearance, a French soldier, who had taken a Cossack's lance and pistol, which he found leaning against a tree, has been ordered to return them and leave them in the place he found them.

The next time the French went out one of the men left a biscuit in a cleft stick, beckoning to the Cossacks to come and eat it. The following day he found a white shirt and an excellent bread stuck on a stick in the same place, with a note in Russian, which has been translated for them in Balaklava, to the effect that the Russians had plenty of biscuit, and that, though greatly obliged for that which had been left for them, they really did not want it; but if the French had bread to spare like the sample left for them it would be acceptable. The sentiment in both sides about and yell to each other, and the other day a Russian called out, as the French were retiring for the day, "Nous nous reverrons, mes amis—Français, Anglais, Russes, nous sommes tous amis." The cannonade going on before Sebastopol, the echoes of which reach the remotest glades distinctly, must have furnished a strange commentary on the assurance, and must have rather tested the sincerity of the declaration.

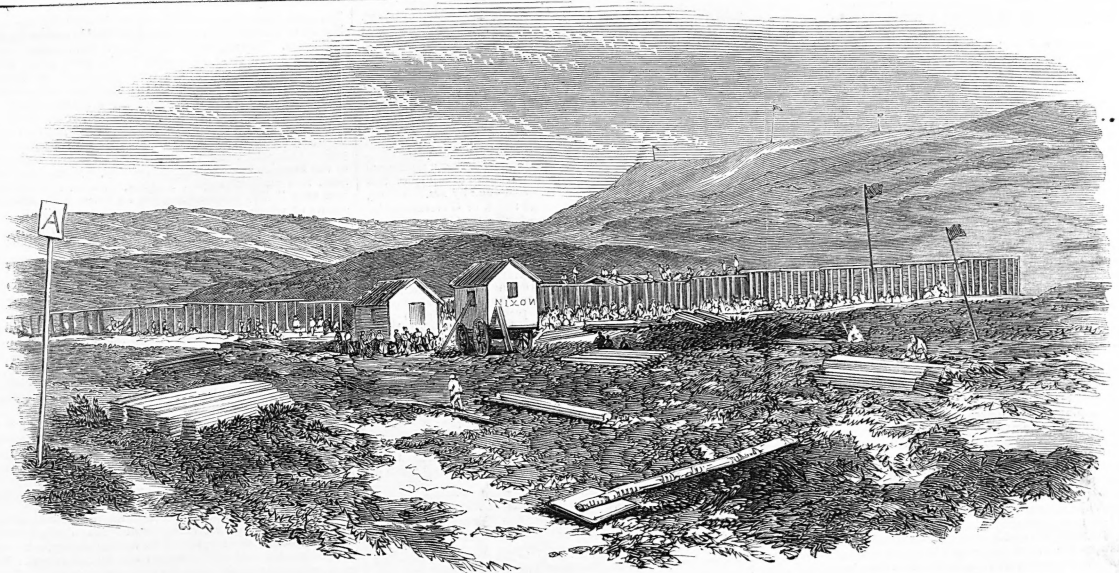
FRAN. The marines of the *Algiers* and *Agamemnon* went on board the *Sanspareil* to join their ships to-day; the front to be taken by a hundred supernumeraries of the fleet. All about our camp the mud is a sticky, tough, determined compost, which makes ordinary walking difficult, and the moving a large body of men, or the transport of artillery and ammunition, almost impossible. So that our troops are protected by natural defences so well as to make their position secure, unless led into a trap or horribly mismanaged. There is no doubt that an attempt will soon be made to dislodge them—most probably by a sortie from the town. The Grand Dukes reconnoitered our front yesterday.

The French suffered severely in the sortie made on them this morning and last night. About 300 men and several officers were killed or wounded. The sortie was the more melancholy inasmuch as it was occasioned by a mistake—one French regiment firing on another in the darkness of the night. General Rose rode into our camp before day-break to inquire if anything unusual had taken place; and they are still expecting an attack; though the demonstration they made this morning—marching 16,000 men down towards Inkerman—has not responded to the expectation, who they could not turn out to meet them. The guns ordered up to the hill over the road outside Balaklava have not been mounted yet; but the work is all traced out, and the guns are lying ready to be hoisted up and placed on their carriages. The weather is beautiful, and our men, who will wear all their warm clothing at once, with true Saxon stoutness, suffer from the heat. The preparations for laying down a telegraph from head-quarters are going rapidly.

FEB. 2.—Nothing unusual; though the cavalry were under arms all night, and many of the regiments are held in readiness for immediate action. About 200 sick, covered with vermin and without blankets, were sent on board the *Ripon*. The weather has changed; windy and overcast, but the thermometer up at 42°. The Russians have not yet reached the two more ships of the navy which arrived at Balaklava, and the *St. Jean d'Acre* is still outside the harbour. Colonel Eld, of the 90th, was under arrest for five days, accused of not preventing his men from throwing away their shakos, for the ground is strewn with shakos thrown away by the men recently landed; and an order was issued that this was to be prohibited under penalty of severe punishment.

FEB. 3.—A bitter cold wind, the thermometer fallen to 18°; a deep fall of snow, and a sudden intense frost. The railroad-making impeded; the navies hard at work picking, growing and fighting among themselves, after the manner of navies generally. They had a regular battle on board one of their ships last night, and the Provost Marshal will have to render into deeds their present dim ideas of martial law, which they will find rather well adapted to the police of England. There was very little firing on the trenches last night. The French, as usual, had a couple of smart fusillades. Our third parallel, in front of Chapman's battery, is to be strengthened at last. It ought to have been done so long ago. Sir John Burgoyne said of Sebastopol, "The more you look at it the less you will like it;" and said, also, that it ought to be assaulted; this was three months ago. General Nid came now and laughs at the notion of our reducing the place by fire, though we shall have a tremendous fire, with a shower of 13-inch shells, each weighing 200 lbs., in addition. The French long for an assault, and we long for anything but work in the trenches. General Canrobert's popularity is on the wane; and General Bosquet, who commanded the French movement at Inkerman, is rising in military esteem, because he upholds the bayonet. The *Lipson* and her sick sail to-day for Scutari. Tea and brandy-and-water were given to them by Mr. Skead at the Little Restaurant in Balaklava, which may truly be called the "Caradoc Restaurant." The *Times* fund furnishes the brandy, and Dr. MacShane, of the *Caradoc*, administers it. In addition, arrowroot, sugar, and medical comforts are given from the same store to each invalid as he arrives. The *Times* fund and the *Times* commissioner together have saved many lives. An officer, speaking to their correspondent, said, with tears in his eyes, "The things I've got from the *Times* fund, out of the *Bride*, will save many of my poor fellows' lives. My God! what would I have given for them a month ago! Many of our best men would now be alive if I had had them. The original strength of this regiment was 1000 men; the present working strength, 125; in hospital, 60; unfit for duty in camp, 360; at Scutari, 85; dead, 287. The guns of the new battery outside Balaklava are in position. No decided movement among the enemy. About three miles of the line of rail are marked out by the engineers by a line of white sticks. Our batteries in front are armed every night. Captain Peel is to command the *Leander*, and Captain Hamilton takes the *Diamond*, the *Diamond* and *Wasp* are warped into position to sweep the road into Balaklava, and their guns cover the whole approach to the town from the valley outside. The commissariat is better managed, and the supplies are generally sufficient. The officers of the commissariat of the Guards and Second Division have been the most successful, but the officers of some of the divisions have lacked. It will be even the war if even the war failed to complete success.

FEB. 4.—Sharp and frosty—the thermometer standing at 22°—but with little snow; and the bright sun of mid-day softening the ground, which else is too hard for work. About 4000 Russian cavalry appeared to-day in front of Balaklava, to make a reconnaissance, the *Times* correspondent says only "a small party of Cossacks"; but an attack is daily and



PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEW CAMP AT ALDERSHOT. (See page 44.)

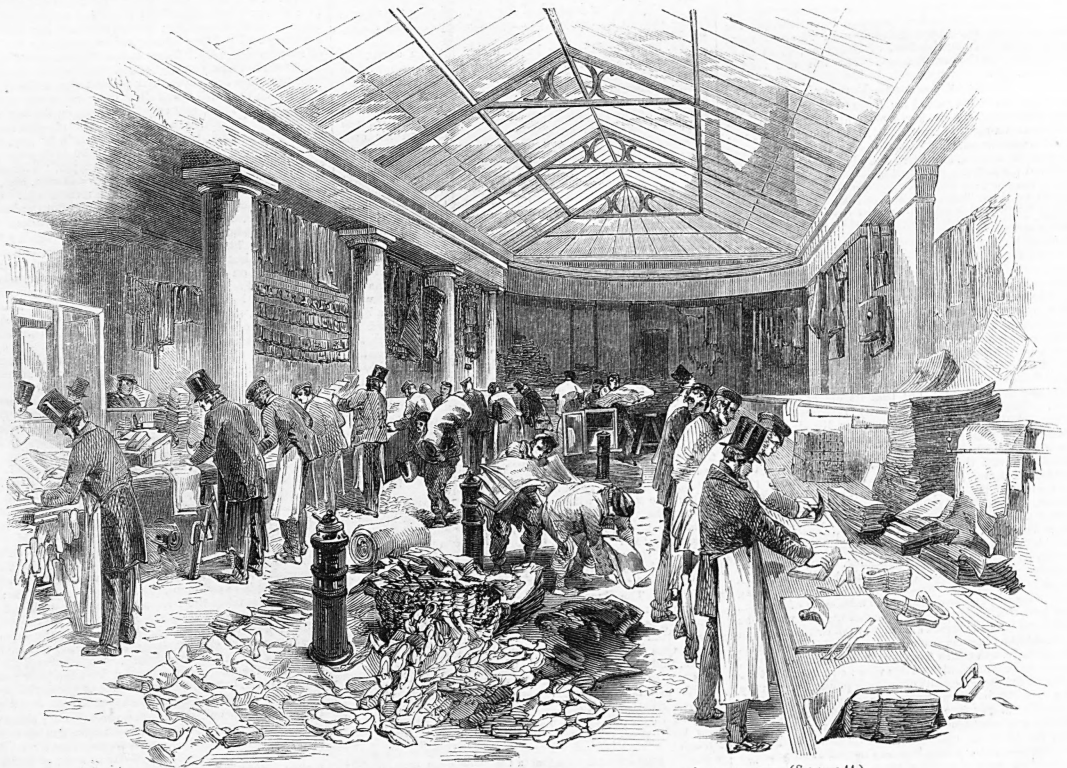
hourly expected partly based on information brought by a Polish officer. Two artillerymen were wounded last night in the trenches from a round shot. The trenches are too hard and post-bound for night work. The pickaxe makes no impression. The sand-bags burst, too; and the men can scarcely be kept from burning the gabions and fascines for fire-wood. The French are throwing up a work in front of the White Tower, where guns and mortars will be placed to reduce the tower. The Turkish troops in Balaklava are nearly all sick, and die rapidly; and the Russians, who are generally kept in hot, close barracks during the cold of winter, suffer even more than our own men. Only the Cossacks are employed in the open country during frost and snow.

The correspondent of the *Post* speaks thus of the Crimean Army Fund.—The gentlemen intrusted with the distribution of the Crimean Army Fund are doing us a great

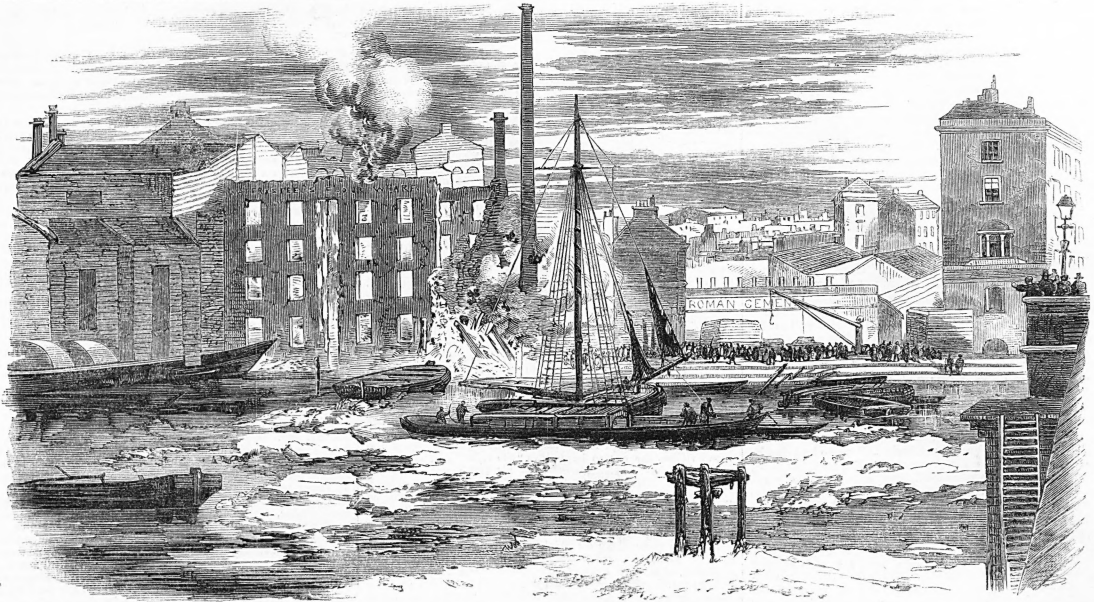
service. They have supplied nearly every regiment with tea—a beverage much needed amongst our poor fellows who are sick, and even by those who are well. It is a change from the coarse coffee, which the men roast and break up with a stone; and another thing, it is easier made, which is a great blessing, since a soldier's time for these little things is very little. They have also sent tobacco and pipes, another luxury to the smoker. I am inclined to think that this fund will do a vast deal of good, if they can but overcome the many little difficulties which will block up the way; but as they seem to work with zeal, and with an earnest endeavour to fulfil their task, I have no doubt but they will find a way for their will. Amongst many of their difficulties is that experienced in procuring transport for some arrivals of the fund from the Bosphorus. Mr. G. Brackenbury is at Constantinople, acting as a sort of medium

to forward the views of the subscribers to the fund. From a letter which I have had from Constantinople, I find that he has applied to the Hon. F. Grey, commodore at the Bosphorus—who, by-the-by, has succeeded Rear-Admiral Boxer, the latter having arrived at Balaklava—but he could furnish no vessel for that purpose. Lord Stratford de Redcliffe is giving them every assistance he possibly can. I may mention that they are selling their tea at 6d per pound.

But under the same date, Feb. 4, the *Times* correspondent gives us the following pendant:—Owing to one of those unaccountable delays which seem to attach themselves to all our operations here, the *Sir George Pollock*, the ship appointed to sell the stores provided by Government at cost price, has not yet opened shop. Some of the Crimean Army Fund stores have been opened, and are in the course of distribution. They will be distributed officially, and by the instrumentality



THE NEW LAND TRANSPORT CORPS.—MAKING THE UNIFORMS IN MESSRS. HEBBERT'S WORKROOMS (See page 44.)



THE FIRE AT BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE. (See page 39.)

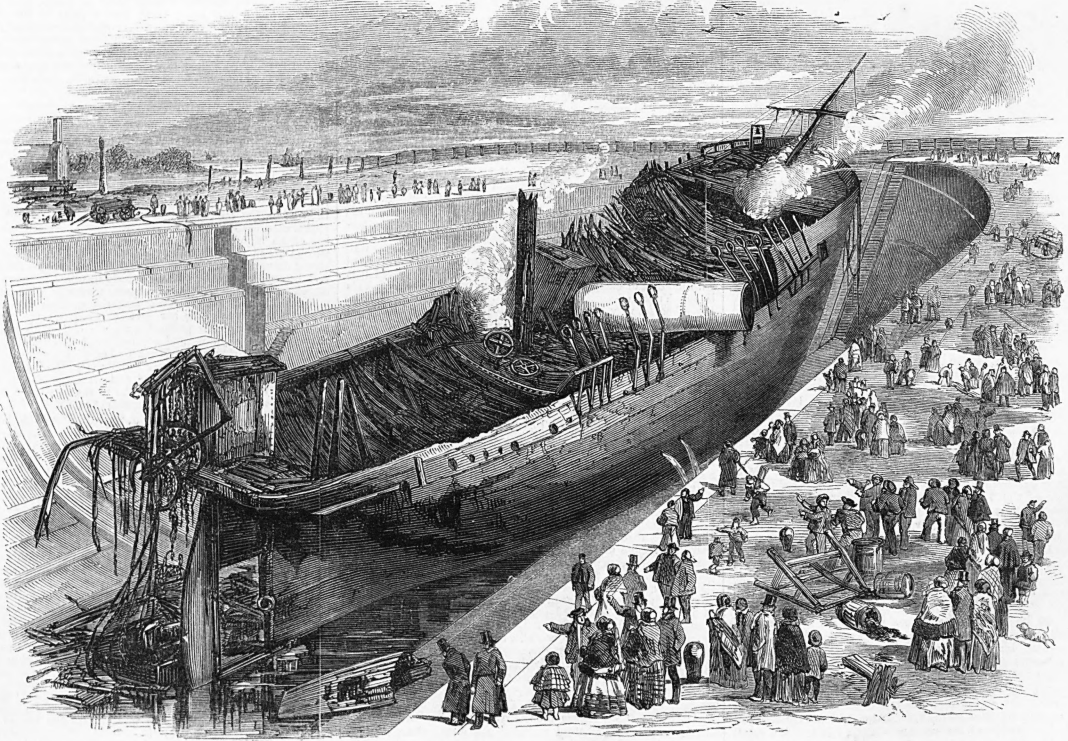
of the Quartermaster-General's department in each division; but individual officers may get stores for their respective regiments by providing carriage for them. It has been decided by the managers that "it is better to sell than to give away," and accordingly all articles which are not actually given to the fund will be sold at such a price as may defray cost and expenses. Our parcels and boxes and Christmas presents are turning up very slowly in the chaos of Balaklava. For the last week the *Foyle*, laden with packages from England, has been lying in harbour; and I am very well acquainted with one person who has received a polite note from Messrs. Hayter and Howell apprizing him that they shipped for him in the *Foyle* a case marked "so and so," who has sent on board day after day for it, who has gone to the parcels-office for it, and who is still without it, and can not hear anything of it. You may multiply that

person and that case by a hundred, if you like, and apply the calculation to most ships out here. The presents sent by the *Prince* to the Guards are in the *St. Jean d'Acre*, but have not yet been delivered. Poor fellows! Those who live will have ample comforts if they divide the share of their departed comrades among them.

The *Medway* has brought the 71st Regiment, and a portion of the 34th, from Corfu; but they are not yet landed. They are a most welcome addition to our force in Balaklava, should the Russians, for once, attack us when and where we expect them. The *Arabia* sailed yesterday for the Bosphorus, with mules for the transport service; the *Imperatrice* to Yarna, for troops; and the *Ripon*, as was said before, and the *Robert Lowe*, to Scutari, with sick. "It is wonderful to a civilian," says the *Times*' correspondent, speaking of the heights lately fortified, "that the point which we have now fortified by the

guns sent up the other day, should have been so long neglected, as it looked very weak, and an easy gully down the slope of the hills would have brought a body of cavalry right through a gap in our lines upon the very highway between Kadikoi and Balaklava. The 32-pounders just put into position would render such an attempt now all but impossible." There is a report that the Brigade of Guards, now reduced to less than 600 men fit for duty, is to be moved down to the port of Balaklava, and that Sir Colin Campbell will move up with his fresh regiments to the front; but I trust that Balaklava may not be deprived of the vigilance and skill of such an able officer until we can afford to dispense with the possession of the harbour. The 14th are encamped in wooden huts, at the extremity of the harbour, and most of the men are employed in fatigue duty.

FEB. 5.—A cold thaw, changing again to frost. The



REMAINS OF THE MAURITIUS. (See page 44.)

enemy quite quiet during the night, but making use of the information which the spy, disguised as a doctor, who came into the trenches so boldly, gained for them. They have strengthened their position at the Koussouk. Therefore, we have been obliged to change the position and strength of several of our recent batteries, though we shall only find out when our fire opens what injury his information has done us. Lord Raglan rode into Balaklava to-day, inspecting the arrangements of the various departments of the service. A house took fire while he was there. His lordship seems to be a kind of the hero of the last three times he has visited the town, a ship in harbour has been on fire: the *Arcturion*, the *Star of the South*, and another vessel, whose name is not reported, all made a dismal *fais de joie* for his arrival. Seventy sick men went down from camp to Balaklava to-day, and had tea and brandy at Mr. Skedd's stores before going on board ship. The whole of the French division lately landed is pushed to the right; and, to the dismay of our commissariat, part of the harbour of Balaklava has been assigned to the French for their ships to lie in. They are to unload stores there for those regiments which are nearer to Balaklava than to Kamiesch. The harbour is full of ships, "piled as close together as herrings in a barrel," and the loading and unloading continues as before. But still medicines are scarce, and can not be got at when wanted. A bullet from the 9th Regiment was shot in this place, about the head last night, and afterwards strangled with his comrade. They say the Turks had done this, as he was found close to their tents. The *Times*' correspondent, who seems to be far the luckiest of them all in adventures and sight-seeings, sends home a spirited anecdote:—

As I was riding out towards the camp this afternoon, with an officer of the Scots Fusilier Guards, I witnessed a refreshing instance of the vigour of our men. We rode out along the valley towards the Woronzoff road, and kept a little too much to our right, so that, happening to look towards the top of a mound about 300 yards distant, the first thing that struck us was the head of a Cossack as he crouched down to escape observation, in the hope that, with the aid of his picket, he could make us prisoners. It was just as well a bullet had not been close to him, as a sentry never fire on stragglers passing within range. A little the voice of and keeping towards the mound on our right was an English soldier; behind him, at the distance of some 400 yards, another soldier was seen running, shouting at the top of his voice, with his firelock at the present. The first man kept walking rapidly on. The other halted and fired, and the ball knocked him close to him. Still the fellow kept on, and we were riding up to see what he was, when a Heavy Dragon dashed at a gallop from the cavalry picket-house, and rode between the man and the hill. The foot soldier turned back at once with the Dragon, who marched him to the picket-house, and then went up to the other man. We found this poor fellow was a sentry from the hill in front of the Highland Battery, and that he had run to the distance after the other man, whom he had seen edging up towards the Russian lines along the plain. He returned at once to his post, and in a quarter of an hour more he was on his bleak beat, pacing up and down, with his eye fixed on the enemy. It was amusing to watch the Cossack all this time. Nothing could be seen of him for the time but his little bullet head over the bushes. He evidently imagined that, if he were close he might get one of us, but he was disappointed, for the Dragon requested us to go more to the left, and thus debared us the use of a path which many of the men of the regiments on the right of the camp had been in the habit of taking for a long time past. It is now tabooed, however, as the Cossacks seem to have pushed their videttes somewhat closer than they used to be. The sentry was a brave fellow, yet no sign of preparation in the valley towards Tchorgoum. The French don't like to venture out reconnoitering without guns, and the ground across the plains and valleys of Balaklava will not bear them yet.

No news of the Turks from Eupatoria, and rumours that Omer Pasha likes the plans neither of General Canrobert nor of Lord Raglan. General Pelissier is one of the "hopes" of the French, and he speaks in high terms of his energy and expects great things from his energy and activity. "Honourable dissentients" are arising among the English cavalry, who are not at all appeased by anything that has been urged to quiet them. They are indignant at the refusal of any distinction whatever for Balaklava, and the survivors say they would rather have a bit of string and a stick to fasten to their coats, if it were to show they had been in the charge of the 25th of October, than the gaudiest and richest riband and clasps for Alma or Inkerman, where they feel they were comparatively inactive. They have been made hewers of wood, and drawers of water, and biscuit-bearers to the army, till horses died, and men died or sickened, and they have been deprived by the nature of the campaign, and by the reduction of their numbers, of any other opportunity of distinguishing themselves. If a clasp cannot be given, because the 25th of October was not a victory, let the men who remain out of those two immortal charges receive some mark by which their countrymen may know them—two bronze swords, crossed, fastened to a narrow riband, or some simple, quiet decoration of that kind, would satisfy the most ambitious of them.

Among the claimants for the Alma clasp are the officers and men of the *Vesuvius*, Commander Powell. It may be remembered that the Russians who occupied the extreme left of the hills on which their position above the Alma was situated were forced to retire by the heavy fire of three steamers, two French and one English, on their flank. The latter was the *Vesuvius*. She was under fire, and in service, and her crew consider they are as much entitled to the Alma clasp as the men of two divisions of the army which were not actually engaged during the action.

It is to be much desired that this thirst of fame and honourable distinction, which lends the soldier half his courage and all his *morale*, may not be suddenly negatived by our Government. Stars, and Garters, and Ribbands are given for no other service than that of being brave and obedient men. If that a little bit of riband at his button-hole can reward the soldier for the loss of limb and health, in God's name let him have it, embalm in the praise and gratitude and love of his whole country! It is but a small token of his country's honour; we need not grudge it to him.

Feb. 6.—We can not do better than give entire the letter of the *Times*' correspondent. Nothing has been sent home more graphic, or better written. It would be ruined if paraphrased:—

No bombardment yet—no fire opened, and yet the day generally assigned by rumour for the reopening of our attack has been passed and gone now 24 hours ago. The only great type of life and motion visible is "the navy's barrow." That potent engine of civilization is lying in stacks on the waters' edge at Balaklava. The principal reason for this is the horrible squall which has blown in the rear of the post-office. When we first arrived in Balaklava this house was in good order, and was whitewashed and scrupulously clean; a neat wooden balcony, reached by a flight of steps from the garden, led to the principal rooms on the upper floor, and from this balcony a strong, straight trellis-work, extending far down the garden, across sustained the rich masses of glowing grapes which burst through the thick foliage of the vines. The garden itself was enclosed by a whitewashed wall, and a gate at the end led out upon the quay—garden, and walls, and gate, and trellis-work and balcony, have long since disappeared, and the soil has been for months a liquid abomination, so that it is a glad sight to behold barrows, and sleepers, and blocks of wood laid over it. It is strange that the first use—perhaps the only use—the Crimean-Tartar will ever witness for centuries of the great invention of recent days should be to facilitate the operations of war and to destroy life. When the railway will be finished I know not; already there is a hitch, for it appears the survey had to be stopped yesterday, inasmuch as the line crossed the road which the French are building, and the British, in making up towards the front from Kadikoi. After the expedition has left the shores of the Crimea, and has become a tradition among its people, the works of our unfinished railroad may serve to exercise the ingenuity of future Crimean antiquaries, and may form the only relic in witness of our presence on this blood-stained soil. The pick is at the salutes, and the peculiar idiom of the navy strikes the ear as he salutes "the sejer," and asks after "the foitin' afore Sebastopol" from his perch upon the rocks outside Balaklava. The line of the railway is so surveyed, but it has not yet been marked out beyond the mound over the Kadikova, over the plain which leads up to the plateau on which our camp stands. The entrance to Balaklava presents a most extraordinary appearance at present. After descending into the valley from the plateau, the line of the hill-side over which the road to Balaklava. Rows of white huts strewn the ground. A little town, called "Buffalo Town," "Log Town," "Hut Town," or "Sutler's Town," according to the fancy of the speaker, has been erected on the right hand, and the path, ably assisted by three-quarters of a mile outside Balaklava, for the expedited sutlers; and from the din and clamour, one might imagine he was coming to some well-frequented English fair. A swarm of men, in all sorts of grotesque uniforms, French, English, and Turks, through the narrow lanes between the huts, carry on cargoes in all the languages of Babel with Greek, Italian, Algerine, Spanish, Maltese, Armenian, Jew, and Egyptian, for all sorts of merchandise. Here I beheld my runaway servant—a vagabond Italian—selling small loaves of bread for 2s. each, which he had purchased from a French baker at Balaklava for 1s. 6d., and thus realized 40 out of it for a short walk. The guard-house had no effect on him, and, as the authorities do not interfere in such cases, I was left to solace myself with the poor revenge of seeing him break his shins over a tent-stake as he ran away to escape my horsewhip. Here you may see all the sundrums of the Levant who can get across the Black Sea making little fortunes by the sale, at the most enormous prices, of the vilest articles of consumption, which necessity alone forces us to use; and here you may see a few honest traders seeking to live honestly and to mourn over their fast departing probity. There is not one Englishman, so far as I know, among these sutlers of the British army, though the greatest vein of nuggets that ever charmed multitudes to a desert was as dress and dirt to the wealth to be realized in this foreign bazaar. Camel-drivers, Arabians, swarthy, strange-looking savages from out-of-the-way corners of Asia Minor, dressed apparently in the spoils of the chorus of "Nabucco" or "Semiramis," stalk curiously through the soldiery, much perplexed by the contending emotions of fear of the French, and desire of plunder. There are about 150 huts and tents clustered together on this hill-side. Close beside it is the new battery. Then more huts and tents, occupied by the cavalry. On the other side of the cliff, the mountain ridge through which the town is approached, the huts and tents of the Highlanders, the Turks, French, Marines, and Rifles, guarding the lines towards Kamara, and rising one above the other till they cover the tremendous crag which frowns down at the sea 1200 feet below. Then there is an old-broken hill, a low mound, with a low wall round it, which looks as if all the moles in the world lived beneath it, and were labouring night and day—so covered is it with mounds of earth, through which peep grass and bones. This is the Turkish burying-ground, and full well frequented is it. Little hearses may be seen docking to it down the hill-sides all day, and returning with the empty litters graven back again. They have also turned one or two vineyards into graveyards; and they have also selected a quiet nook up among the hills for the same purpose. Our own more decent graveyard is situated outside the town, in low ground, close to the sea. The huts and tents of the 14th, and long rows of wooden sheds for the mules, and the tents of the sailors guarding stores, and the huts of the landing-wharf, are all crowded along the steep, and at the edge of the bay on the other side of the town, so that the place altogether would give one the idea that the town, so long ago, some great military population just settled for a week, or had fallen across one of the mushroom convulsed cities of Australia. Of course, those who are the highest get nearest to the huts, and are best able to put them up. It is a little hard to be moved out of one's home, but it would see his worst suspicion realized could he but witness the moving forest of timber marching up to the front. He would behold literally miles of men, and of mules and ponies, all struggling along through the mud with beads, beads, nothing but beads. In calm weather they get on well enough, but a puff of wind puts an end to all progress, and a strong gust lays men and horses in the mire. However, they are slowly working up towards the camp, but it can not be conceived by a person not on the spot how hard it is to take up even one hut, and what a great quantity of timber has to be moved ere the building is complete. The weather is fine, but cold. It is not transport we want; it is a road to put our transport on. From all I can hear, there is no immediate prospect of our opening fire.

The actual position of Balaklava is improved in every respect. The most mud of the thoroughfares are covered with broken stones, and the navies are filling up the most unsightly holes about the town. They are also levelling and laying down the sleepers for the tram-road, so that in another week it is expected to be in use along the wharves, where it is most wanted. Huts, fitted up with comfortable

beds for the sick, are erected at the head of the harbour. A month ago, fifty such at camp would have spared the cavalry the deplorable loss it has sustained. Guns are mounted on an elevated plateau to the north of the harbour of Balaklava; they sweep the plain out to Kamara, and make a formidable addition to the defensive strength of our shipping depot. Here is from the *Herald* a lively sketch of "Buffalo Town," and a Sunday in the Crimea:—

Just above this new work, and beyond our rather extensive graveyard, is a village, or rather town, which has sprung into existence in the last few weeks. It is a town of the most primitive kind, built of wattle and daub, and its inhabitants are a motley crew of felts and of beasts of draught, our commissariat sent to Baltik and Varma for a supply of buffaloes, those quiet, slow, and hideous beasts which do more work in a day than a horse in a week. They arrived here a few days since, to the number of about 200, and as warm stables were necessary to shelter them from the intense severity of a Crimean winter, a long row of comfortable wooden sheds was erected for their especial accommodation between Balaklava and Kadikoi. This place has now received the name of "Buffalo Town," and both from the extent and variety of its offices it bids fair to completely eclipse the remnant of a village of which it is an offshoot. To this spot, after being ejected from Balaklava, have migrated all the various tribes of all countries, who, under the general name of sutlers, have swindled both men and officers, and annihilated traditions on our soil. I went down yesterday to see the rising town, of which every one now begins to talk, and certainly was struck with the celebrity with which the wooden metropolis and centre of our Crimean trade had been run up. Not that all the houses are of wattle and daub. Buffalo Town boasts every kind of structure, from the common stone stand of a Jew or Tartar who has staked his all in a venture of clay pipes and cheeses, to the handsome eight-windowed residence of our Rothschild of the Provision market, Mr. Oppenheim. Tents, mud-huts, stalls, wooden sheds, and screens, and all the possible kind of shelter from which any possible kind of article can be sold, abound here. The population which frequents this place is quite as varied as the place itself. All the different branches of the English, French, and Turkish services, even other foreigners innumerable, may be met here on Sunday, in every possible combination of winter costume, from the spruce, active, neat French soldier, to our own men-of-war's men, with huge flowing beard and moustaches, great coats of cow-hide, and trousers of Turkish cloth, resembling in their colour and texture the remind you of our blue-jackets but their bold, rollicking, defiant spirit, which four long months in the trenches have not been able to subdue. The Turks frequent the long gaudy line of tents, where, under the present and the Sultan's cypher, gin, rak, and tobacco, and tobacco are sold at the most exorbitant prices, and from which seductions the followers of the Prophet always come away either discontented or drunk. The English hunt more extensive stores, where everything but the article of which you are in search can be obtained, and where, if you ask for preserved meats, he is sure to be told that they are all gone, but that some admirable tins of tea, tin kettles, and pocket combs still remain on hand. The French have peculiar places for their own, in which, after their vociferation and many threats of appealing to the authorities, they generally end up by expending the amount of an English penny or so. Amid all this clamour and hurry, little Greek and Maltese boys rush in and out, laden with eggs, bristles, tick boots, gloves, pipes, sausages, and all the other little creature comforts of which dwellers in the camp are supposed to stand so much in need, and generously offer them to passers-by for about one hundred times their actual value. Great was the astonishment and indignation of the "navies," who were at Buffalo Town for the first time yesterday, to find the prices at which things found eager purchasers here. Such was the scene at our new town on Sunday. Opposite the place where all the trade was going forward a large party of Turks were digging graves, while a little below them were a party of our own men engaged in a similar melancholy duty; and along the road through the camp, a long line of our men, some on foot, some on cavalry horses, wrapped in their blankets, and scarcely able to sit in the saddle, completed the melancholy picture, and gave the navies a good idea of a Sunday in the Crimea.

ADDITIONAL FACTS.

The *Ripon*, with 1080 men and officers of the Voligeurs of the Imperial Guard, arrived on the 28th of January. They were disembarked the same day, and encamped close to the 1st Division—General Canrobert entertained them at breakfast at breakfast on Monday morning. Besides these, the *Vulcan*, with the Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard, is momentarily expected, and about 4000 more French troops are on their way. It cannot but be observed that, while the men sent out by France gradually improve in condition, our army as regards its sanitary state. Ponies have been lent to some regiments to bring up their clothing. The 2nd Division has been ordered to take part of the night duty of the hard-working and hard-fighting Light Division, and the men of the latter have now sometimes three nights out of seven in the trenches. The coffee is now issued to the men roasted, with few exceptions. Vegetables, however, are greatly needed. Picks and spades, bill-hooks and axes, are in much request, and are very much needed. Requisition after requisition is sent in, and returned scratched out. The officers have a splendid stock of long boots to choose from; they have waterproofs, fur caps, fur coats, &c. The infantry have two or three warm underclothes. Some of the men have sheepskin jackets; but the men generally have no waterproofs or long boots, though they have to wade about like cranes in the trenches. It is marvellous to see the utter indifference which hangs about

everything not immediately in the recognized order of military matters. It would seem as if the military intellect were fossilized, and incapable of further growth or development. Here is a strange anecdote told by a distinguished correspondent. So far as instances of contentions nonchalant towards a new and useful invention could not be tolerated in a brewery, or a dye-house, or a ribbon manufactory, or any, the very meanest and smallest trade; but where the lives of thousands of men, and the success of our arms, depend on the adoption of every improvement; this carelessness of military men rises into wickedness. It is a selfish braggart *esprit de corps*, which assumes perfection and infallibility, and wants no aid from any one not patented by an epaulette. However, here is the anecdote. Our readers may judge of the taste and feeling of these artillerymen themselves.

Mr. Murdoch, of the *Sanspareil*, who has performed the operation of "bouching" (or fitting new vents into guns) on several large pieces of ordnance in the trenches, has received the thanks of Lord Raglan for his very useful labours, and his Lordship inspected the process the other day in person. He gave orders that some artillerymen should be sent to meet Mr. Murdoch on the following day, in order to be instructed in the process, and Mr. Murdoch walked up from Balaklava, and was in the appointed place at 10 o'clock to meet them, but he waited for two hours in vain; not a man came near him. He offered to leave the tools to perform the work on his own responsibility with the artillery, but, somehow or other, no readiness was evinced to accept his offer. The value of the operation performed on the spot on a gun whose vent has been injured by concussion during the bombardment, is a piece of useless metal, in a few hours you have a gun as good as new, and ready for instant use.

DESPATCH FROM LORD RAGLAN.

WAR DEPARTMENT, FEB. 20.—Lord Panmure has this day received a despatch and its enclosures, of which the following are copies, addressed to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle by Field Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B.

My Lord Duke, I mentioned to your Grace on Saturday that the weather had broken. The frost was very severe all that night, and the thermometer down at 13, and the wind was very high and piercingly cold.

Sunday was rather milder, and yesterday was fine. To-day the glass has fallen, and there is every appearance of rain.

I am happy to state that the medical officers consider that the general condition of the men has improved, although apparently there is no diminution in the number of the sick.

The enemy has made no movement of importance, but great convoys of wagons have been observed to go into Sebastopol laden either with ammunition or provisions.

I enclose the casualties to the 4th instant.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Jackson, of the Royal Artillery, an excellent officer, whom I have before had occasion to bring to your notice, was slightly wounded on the 4th instant, when making a reconnaissance in company with some French officers.

I have, &c., RAGLAN.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

(BY SUBMARINE AND BRITISH TELEGRAPH.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, FEB. 22.—The *Monitor* publishes a telegraphic despatch from Admiral Bruat, dated Kamiesch Bay, Feb. 10.

Two ships had arrived with troops and stores.

Advices from Balaklava, dated February 12, have been received; they state that the siege works are pushed forward with great activity on every point.

The railway from Balaklava to the English camp is far advanced.

Advices from Varna, of the 10th February, announce that the Turkish troops that have landed at Eupatoria form an effective body of more than 30,000 men.

The sanitary condition was good.

A new corps d'armée was to embark at Batschik in the course of the week.

The electric telegraph from Varna to Shumla is to be completed at the end of February.

EUROPEAN GLEANINGS.

FRANCE.—The two events most talked of, in Paris, at this moment, are the past glories of the ball at the Hotel de Ville, and the future movements of the Emperor. Of the last no one knows anything, but all stand prepared for the start. If the Emperor will it. The late Conception, promulgated on the 7th, in Paris, occupies but little of the public attention. The crowd wonders, but the thinking world scoffs. M. Magne, the new Minister of Finance, has made his report, announcing the reimposition of duties on commercial receipts or obligations, to the expected amount of 7,000,000 francs. The present floating debt of France is 679,330,400 francs.

RUSSIA will send more than one envoy to the Congress at Vienna. A manifesto, from the Tsar, dated Feb. 10, says that he is trying to defend, without war, the rights of the Christians in the East, by consenting to negotiations; but to meet the preparations of his enemies, he is resolved to augment those defensive forces given him by God. The ladies of Moscow have sent 41,400 roubles for the benefit of the wounded; and lists of donations of money, &c. are being continually published in the Russian journals. The Swedish mails have been stopped by the ice, and no mails have arrived at St. Petersburg from Copenhagen for the last week. Agents have gone to Konigsburg with large offers for workmen, engineers, and manufacturers, sadly wanted since the exodus of foreigners from Russia.

ITALY.—Lieutenant-Colonel Chevalier Lanati, the President of the Permanent Court-martial in Parma, was stabbed on the night of the 11th, a few steps from his own door. None of his five wounds are mortal. The French troops at Rome are to be reduced to 3000, and at Civita Vecchia to 500. This leaves the permanent Roman army from 15,000 to 16,000 strong. The cost of foreign legion he added, it will amount to 18,000,000 l. The last of the paper money withdrawn from circulation is destroyed. The total amount was 5,100,000 crowns—nearly equal to half the annual revenue of the State. Numerous arrests are being made.

IN AUSTRIA, the Emperor is devoting his time almost exclusively to the army. In case of an European war, Francis Joseph will head his troops. It is said in Vienna that the body of the Duke de Reichstadt is to be taken to Paris.

HOLLAND.—The Dutch are sending an extraordinary embassy to the Emperor of Japan, to obtain a more advan-

tageous treaty of commerce. Baron de Linden is to accompany it, with presents from the king.

PRUSSIA.—Negotiations are still going on at Paris with shifty Frederick William. Lord John's mission to Vienna is expected to mesmerize the court of Berlin, which as yet has justified the saying, *les Allemands, quand on est la in on n'est pas au bout.*

M. de Lacy, in the *Journal des Debats*, says that all the differences between Prussia and the allied western powers are nearly adjusted. Prussia offers to promise all that Austria has promised—an alliance against Russia, should she attempt to invade the Principalities; should she attack Austria in her own territory; or, if the Tsar should withdraw his acceptance of the four points as interpreted in the memorandum of December 28.

SPAIN.—The cause of religious liberty is postponed for the present. The Queen declared to the Ministers of War and Foreign Affairs, that her desire was, "that in the basis of the Constitution relative to religion, the liberty of worship should not be directly or indirectly prevented, and that Catholic unity should be firmly established in Spain." The amendment of M. Corradi, that foreigners should enjoy full liberty of worship, and that Spaniards should be freed from all responsibility with respect to their religious belief, was rejected, after an animated debate, by 132 votes to 115. However, "no Spaniard or foreigner can be prosecuted for his belief, so long as he shall not manifest it by acts contrary to religion." This is the only amendment approved of by the Ministers.

FIRE AT BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE.

We give particulars of the great fire at Blackfriars, mentioned in our last, which broke out on the evening of Friday, destroying property to the value of £150,000. It was first discovered on the premises of Messrs. Bickman, saw-mill and carpenter, situated in Holland-street, Blackfriars-road. Contiguous to them are the premises of Sir John Rennie, the celebrated engineer; and the bottle warehouses of Messrs. Bickman. As soon as the fire was perceived the superintendents of the M. P. and L. divisions of police were on the spot, with a party of constables. Not a moment was lost in bringing up the various engines of the neighbourhood, but before any of them could be brought into play the conflagration had reached an alarming height—the saw-mill and the lofty piles of wood, in an incredibly short space of time, completely in the possession of the flames. Through the energy of several gentlemen the stable doors were burst open, and the horses belonging to Messrs. Bickman saved from destruction.

Notwithstanding the numerous engines at work, the flames spread with terrific violence, seizing first upon the timber in the yard, and then extending to the factory of Sir John Rennie.

The inspector, and several conductors of the Royal Society for the Protection of Life from Fire, attended; but in spite of the exertions of all, the devastation continued, and pile after pile of burning timber took flight. We regret to state, that the first stack which fell, completely buried Mr. Jackson (the son-in-law of Mr. Braidwood, superintendent of the London Fire Engine Establishment) while he was assisting in extinguishing the flames. When discovered, all that remained was the trunk of his body.

The fire continued with unabated vigour, and, in fact, brilliantly illuminating the metropolis. No words can adequately describe the scene, when viewed from the bridge, or other advantageous places. St. Paul's, and every tower and steeple in London, were brought into bold relief, seizing first upon the Thames for a great distance below London Bridge, and to a considerable space beyond Westminster, presented a view of rare grandeur, in consequence of the reflection of the flames on the floating ice, which covered the river. Even as late as 10 o'clock on Sunday evening, the fire continued burning with considerable brilliancy; and till late on Monday evening it was not extinguished.

Between 400 and 500 men are thrown out of employ at Messrs. Rennie's by this disastrous event.

On Monday evening a coroner's inquest was held at the Eight Belts Tavern, near Blackfriars Road, on the remains of the body of Mr. Jackson (aged 24, inspector of risks to the Sun Fire Insurance Office), who it would appear, though not attached to the fire brigade, had been in the habit of attending fires as an amateur.

MEETING AT EXETER HALL FOR A FREE PRESS.

On Wednesday evening, the society for "the Repeal of all the Taxes on Knowledge" held their annual meeting at Exeter Hall. The hall was crowded. Before eight o'clock the gates were closed, and thousands went away without gaining admittance.

The CHAIRMAN, the Right Hon. T. M. Gibson, M.P., opened the proceedings by giving an outline of the history of the society, the difficulties they had overcome, the objects they had already accomplished, and what still remained to be done. They had had many prejudices to contend with in their struggle, but as their object was the public interest they would courageously persevere, sacrificing all petty views in order to secure a great national good. They had met with opposition from even untaught papers, but undauntedly they had persevered in their efforts, and now their day of triumph was not far distant. Mr. Gibson then gave the substance of the bill now on the table of the House of Commons, introduced by, he was afraid he must now say, the late Chancellor of the Exchequer. The bill provided that any printed matter not exceeding four ounces may be transmitted by post for one penny. It also abolished altogether the security system. These were the leading points of the bill, but there were various clauses evidently introduced through regard to the vested interests of established newspapers, by whom the privilege of re-transmission by post was much valued. The bill proposed to give them this privilege for seven days from the day of publication, on the number they choose to stamp, for the space of ten years. As a general rule, this privilege applied to a paper not exceeding four ounces. But there was a clause providing that papers containing a certain number of superficial inches should also participate in the same privileges. The bill would undoubtedly prove a great boon to the community—especially to that large class which had been deprived of the means of education provided by the newspaper, which, in his opinion, no education could be of more importance.

From the report read by the Secretary, Mr. D. COLLET, it appeared that the receipts for the past year were £690 10s.; the expenditure, £690 7s. 1d.; thus leaving a balance in hand of 2s. 11d.

In a very clever, telling speech Dr. WATTS moved:—That the paper duty is a tax on knowledge; that, by hindering the use of new materials, it limits the supply, and enhances the price of paper, and thus restricts the employment of capital and labour; and that the increased expenditure of the country imperatively demands that a less injurious mode of raising money be resorted to, than an exorbitant duty on so important a manufacture.

As an illustration of the injurious effects of the tax, he stated that Charles Knight was obliged to get up his *Encyclopaedia* without

paid authors. The Messrs Chambers were obliged to give up their *Miscellany*, though they were publishing 80,000 a week. Dr. Watts was not ashamed to say that the only copy of *Miscellany of England* which he had read, and could afford to buy, was a Belgian edition at 4s. 6d.

Mr. COBURN regarded the question before the meeting as a vital one. He little thought that in 48 hours after the bill had been introduced to the House of Commons, Mr. Gladstone would have ceased to be Chancellor of the Exchequer. But in his opinion the question would not suffer, for he believed Mr. Gladstone to be a conscientious man. We were at present engaged in a most momentous war, but it seemed the ministers were engaged in a war among themselves. If they stay themselves in this manner and people would have to pass a four-penny enlistment bill to obtain ministers to govern the country. Mr. Cobden said he was ashamed of those gentlemen connected with the press, who had previously acted with him in the movement for free trade, forgetting their old principles and denouncing the effort made to have free trade in newspapers.

Mr. BATEUR treated the subject in a business point of view. He selected the *Times* as an illustration. Before the rise in paper, the cost of the paper would have been three farthings, and the duty equal to 38 per cent. on the original value of the paper. With the additional penny for the stamp, the taxation on the original three farthings would amount to 166 per cent. This was a pressure of taxation almost without a parallel in other commodities. The design of this association was to call away many a man gifted in heart and brain, from an oppressed situation as editor of a newspaper to a wide platform, where he might, unchecked by any Chancellor of the Exchequer or Board of inland Revenue, devote himself to the good of the country. He regretted that Mr. Gladstone was no longer Chancellor of the Exchequer; to him would have been the credit here that was due to Lord Metcalfe, in India, for striking off the shackles of the press.

Mr. DAWSON wound up the proceedings with one of his happy and humorous speeches, denying that the press was either a rival or a friend. He considered the charge as most unjust. The newspapers supported the war on selfish grounds. He very justly and sarcastically ridiculed the American press for laughing at England, the old "bald-headed dad," to whom the child owed all its bone, muscle, and sinew. He advocated the freedom of the press on the principle that every man would become a politician, and thus be prepared to maintain the rights of manly speech and heroic action against the "humdrum tapery and routine" lamentably so abundant now in England.

BREAD RIOTS.

On the morning of Monday last the inhabitants of Liverpool were thrown into a state of great excitement and consternation by the appearance of a large mob in the streets, consisting of the veriest rabble of the town, who entered the provision shops demanding bread, and forcibly taking it when refused. After plundering the shops in the neighbourhood of Shaw's Brow, Scotland Road, Vauxhall Road, and Delia Street, the rioters passed on to the vicinity of Irlington and Brunswick Road. By this time they numbered about 500, most of whom were lads about 16 or 17 years of age, led by about half-a-dozen desperate-looking fellows. On arriving at the corner of Moss Street and London Road, one of the ring-leaders and 30 or 40 followers stationed themselves at the door of a provision-dealer's shop, the shutters of which were closed and demanded food—threatening refusal, to break open and destroy the premises. Alarmed by their threats, the person in charge of the shop threw out to them bread and provisions for about 20 minutes, when the most alert of them ran off in all directions with three or four loaves each. The unsatisfied, however, kept together, and increased by fresh adventurers, proceeded to another provision shop at the corner of Hylton Street. The premises being entirely closed, they burst the door open, violently rushed into the shop, and stripped it of its contents. By this time the police were pursuing them, and succeeded in capturing two of the ring-leaders and a woman who was distinguished by her violence both of word and deed.

The mob then visited the shops in Paddington, Brownlow Hill, &c., and carried on their work of plunder wherever they could force an entrance. In several cases, after they had emptied the shops of their contents, they manifested their recklessness and desperation by throwing stones, smashing the shutters, and breaking the glass in the windows. In one instance, however, they were most signally defeated and repulsed by the bravery of a Mr. Phillips; who, on hearing what was going on in other parts of the town, stationed himself at his shop door, with a loaded pistol firmly grasped in each hand, declaring that he would shoot the first man who attempted to enter. They hastily retreated, without giving him the opportunity of putting his threat into action. In two or three cases, public-houses were entered, and the money forcibly taken out of the tills; showing that "bread alone" would not satisfy them. Before the end of the riot, the police succeeded in apprehending about a dozen of the ring-leaders, and 20 boys; most of them were of Irish extraction, and "well known."

Major Greig went to different parts of the town, where crowds were assembled, and very laudably endeavoured to pacify them, even at the risk of personal violence. The really destitute and suffering poor were peaceable, and disposed to take what was given to them;—not so the rioters, most of whom were thieves and abandoned characters. One poor man dropped down dead on the streets. He is supposed to have died from starvation. In connection with these riots, it is stated that the tickets for food and coal, supplied by the managers of the "Exchange Relief Fund," are given away in the most indiscriminate manner, and not to the dock labourers, for whom the fund was intended; and of whom, it is said, 15,000 are out of work.

On Tuesday, 60 prisoners were brought before Mr. J. S. Mansfield for the riotous conduct narrated above. Nothing of any importance transpired beyond what has already been given, save that it appeared the riots were perpetrated by the lowest of the Irish population who inhabit one of the filthiest parts of the town, known as "The Ireland." With the exception of one old woman, all the prisoners were Irish. Mr. Mansfield, in sentencing the prisoners, gravely informed them that there was no excuse, save as the inhabitants had subscribed liberally for the relief of the destitute, and intimated that he should in every case inflict the highest penalty of the law, summarily, and without mercy, viz., *the whole of your warts and all, with hard labour.*

On Tuesday Bickenhead was the scene of some rioting, and a regular "black mail" was levied from every householder according to the amount at which his house was rated. In



IN THE TRENCHES.

most cases the demands of the foragers were complied with.

About 10 o'clock on Wednesday evening, the neighbourhood of Stepney and Whitechapel was alarmed by the report that a mob of several hundred persons were about to attack the bread shops. The rioters were only successful in plundering one shop of its contents, though several were attempted. A large body of the H and K divisions soon quelled the disturbance and captured some of the ringleaders. On Thursday the rioting was resumed, and a body of Irish labourers and others perambulated the principal thoroughfares for several hours, causing the greatest consternation among the shopkeepers. Several tradesmen, and some of the police were ill-treated, while the premises of the former were cleared of their contents.

The sufferings of the poor during the present inclement season are indeed assuming a serious aspect. At a meeting convened in Birmingham, a few days ago, for the purpose of devising special means for relieving the im-

mediate wants of the destitute, it was stated that the workhouse contained 1300 inmates, and that the claimants for relief were every day augmenting. Norfolk and Leicestershire also manifest unequivocal signs of suffering; and in the east of London the present distress has never been equalled. In Whitechapel, Stepney, Poplar, Bethnal-green, &c., the position of affairs has become frightful in the extreme. In Stepney alone no fewer than 5000 persons have been relieved during the last three days.

KHOSREF PASHA.

Who was Khosref Pasha? A bashaw of three tails, who has just died at Constantinople at the ripe age of 96 years; the last representative of the Turkey of old time. Here is his remarkable history.

At a time when Louis XV. was sinking into a dishonourable old age, when English mobs were shouting for "Wilkes and Liberty," and the American colonies discussing the right of self-taxation, a

lame hump-backed Georgian boy was exposed in the slave-market of Stamboul. Ordinarily, the passport to high rank in Turkey is a pretty face and engaging manners. Khosref was destitute of the former advantage, but no Royal or popular favourite was ever more gifted with the faculty of winning and retaining goodwill. He must have given in early childhood some signs of the cleverness which distinguished him in after years; for he was purchased for the palace of Abdul-Hamed, and quickly received into the Imperial favour, at a time when to be a favourite slave was the chief or only way to the great dignities of the empire. After a short time Khosref was attached to the household of the young Mahmood, afterwards the greatest of the later Turkish Sultans. A friendship more durable than the common run of Oriental attachments appear to have arisen between them, and Khosref devoted himself to the interests of the young Prince. Abdul-Hamed died, and Selim succeeded; Mustafa murdered Selim, and Mahmood dethroned Mustafa. From this time the fortunes of Khosref rose. He was made secretary to the Capudan Pasha, and laid the foundations of his enormous wealth. Appointed to the Pashalic of Egypt, he introduced order into that



ZOUAVES. (See page 44.)

country, and was looked upon as a merciful and moderately able man. But a more energetic spirit was at work in the African province. Against Mehemet Ali the Pasha could not hold his ground, and after a long struggle he was driven away by the intrigues of the crafty Albanian who succeeded him. But the influence of Khosref was always afterwards exercised to check his successful rival. The rupture between the Sultan and Mehemet Ali was looked upon as his work, and it is well known that when the Egyptian forces advanced to Koniah the head of Khosref was demanded as the price of peace by the victorious Viceroy. But Khosref lived to see Mehemet Ali in the grave, as well as his two successors, and the rebellious province once more dependent on the Sultan's throne. In the meantime the Sultan's favourite had received new honours, and amassed fresh wealth. In those times the post of Capudan Pasha was the most lucrative in Turkey, or perhaps in the world. He might be said to take a contract for keeping up the Ottoman navy. He received the revenues of the Morea, the islands, and some of the Asiatic towns; with these he must maintain a fleet for sea, and whatever remained over was his own. The course to be pursued

by a prudent Pasha was obvious. There was no necessity that the Sultan should have an efficient fleet, but it was of great importance that the Minister should keep up his own establishments and fill his own coffers. Khosref was a good financier where his own interest was concerned, and his tenure of the post of Capudan Pasha made him the richest subject in the empire in the course of a few years. He also managed one or two political affairs very adroitly. The Pasha of Smyrna, in the year 1817, presumed to dispute the authority of the Sultan. Had he been the ruler of some inland province, difficult of access, his chance of impunity would have been great, but in a seaport city he could hardly expect long-continued success. However, the affair caused much anxiety to the Porte, and the Capudan Pasha was sent with his fleet into the waters of Smyrna. He professed a desire to see the Pasha, and invited him on board. The Pasha was in an agony of doubt, and prepared for resistance, while still inclined to trust himself in the Admiral's ship, in the hope that Khosref would not dare to injure him. After long hesitation he ventured, and the moment he came on board Khosref made the signal for death. To have quietly made away with a rebellious Pasha was a great exploit

in those days, and the Capudan Pasha rose into higher favour than ever. All through the stormy reign of Mahmoud his fortune never failed him; though once or twice disgraced, he still kept his head, while less prudent men disappeared on every side. Since the accession of Abdul Medjid he has lived in retirement on the Bosphorus, only quitting his palace on State occasions, or to attend some extraordinary Council. At the commencement of the present affair his voice was strongly against war, for he belonged to the party who wished to rest on Russian protection, and he dreaded the immediate presence of Western troops more than the future domination of the Tzar. He was a personal friend of Menschikoff, who sent him presents of overland tea, which the Pasha acknowledged by gifts of choice tobacco. Wily and worldly, he may be compared to Talleyrand. Like that statesman, he has been ready to acquiesce in every change, and has generally succeeded in gaining something by every convulsion. As he was a slave of the Imperial house, from which condition there is no manumission, his great wealth falls to the Sultan, who will thus be able to pay the greater part of his debts, which amount to about £1,500,000 sterling. The palace on the Bosphorus will be given to the Sultan's younger son.

THE FUNDS AND THE MONEY MARKET.

The English funds on Monday exhibited considerable distress, and the very severe weather that has prevailed has added greatly to the heaviness of the market. Consols were first quoted at 91 for money, and afterwards receded to 90½ to 1, closing at 91½ to 1 both for money and the account. Bank Stock, 213 to 215; Reduced, 91 to 1; New Three per Cents, 91½ to 1; Long Annuities, 47½; India Stock, 220 to 225; India Bonds, 12s. to 13s.; and Exchequer Bills, 98 to 98½ premium.

The Foreign Stock was somewhat firmer, but without much alteration in prices. Turkish Bonds were more fully dealt in at 75½, ¾. In railway shares business was very limited, and the closing rates were rather lower. There was rather more doing in Bank shares, and prices were fairly supported.

FRIDAY EVENING.

The English funds have been very quiet throughout the day, with a limited amount of business done. Consols opened at 91½ to 1, but they became weaker towards the close of business, and left off at 90½ to 1 for money, and at 91 to 1 for the March account.

Foreign securities have been dealt in on the most limited scale, and prices are therefore only nominal. Turkish bonds have been done at 75½. The railway share market remains inactive, but prices have been tolerably well supported. Banks somewhat lower, and miscellaneous steadily, without any particular alteration.

The following Tables show the latest official quotations, up to the day of going to press, in the English and Foreign Funds, &c.

ENGLISH FUNDS.

Bank Stock	213	Long Annuities	47½, 5s. 16-7-16
3 p. Ct. Reduced An.	91½, ¾	India Stock	220
Do. 3 p. Ct. Consols An.	91, 90½, ¾	India Bonds, £1000	—
Do. for Account	91½	Do. 3 p. Ct.	—
New 3½ p. Ct. An.	—	Excheq. Bills, £1000, 2½ d. 6 to 9 pm.	—
New 3 p. Ct. An.	—	Do. £500	—
3 p. Ct. An.	—	Excheq. Bonds	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian 5 p. Ct.	—	Mexican 3 p. Ct.	21½, 21
Belgian 4½ p. Ct.	—	Peruvian 4½ p. Ct.	71, 70½
Do. 2½ p. Ct.	—	Do. 3 p. Ct.	—
Brazilian 5 p. Ct.	101	Portuguese 5 p. Ct.	—
Do. 4½ p. Ct.	—	Do. 4 p. Ct.	—
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Ct.	—	Russian 5 p. Ct.	100, 99½
Chilian 6 p. Ct.	—	Do. 4½ p. Ct.	—
Do. 3 p. Ct.	—	Sardinian 5 p. Ct.	—
Danish 5 p. Ct.	—	Spanish 3 p. Ct.	—
Do. 3 p. Ct.	—	Do. New Deferred	—
Dutch 2½ p. Ct.	—	Do. Passive	4
Do. 4 p. Ct. Certif.	92½	Turkish 6 p. Ct.	75½
French Rentes 4½ p. Ct.	—	Swedish 4 p. Ct.	87
Do. 3 p. Ct.	67	Venezuela 3½ p. Ct.	—

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account for the week ending on Saturday, February 17th, 1855.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.		RESERVE DEPARTMENT.	
Notes issued	£26,313,230	Government Debt	£21,015,100
		Other Securities	2,084,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	12,313,230
		Silver Bullion	—
	£26,313,230		£26,313,230
BANKING DEPARTMENT.		GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.	
Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	(including Dead Weight Annuity)	£21,538,227
Reserve	3,335,840	Other Securities	14,584,340
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	4,898,602	Notes	7,067,075
Other Deposits	10,174,571	Gold and Silver Coin	667,556
Seven day and other bills	894,885		
	£33,857,198		£33,857,198

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Dated the 22nd day of Feb., 1855.



THE NEWSPAPER STAMP.

THE *Examiner*, on the 10th of this month, informed the public that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, yielding to a limited but active agitation which had never included among its supporters any considerable number of the educated classes, or even of intelligent working men, had determined to abolish the free postage of newspapers; meaning, by that expression, that Mr. Gladstone proposed to repeal the act which compels every newspaper to pay postage on every copy, whether it use the post or not. On Wednesday night this "limited but active agitation" mustered three thousand strong in Exeter Hall, to support the Association for the Repeal of all the Taxes on Knowledge. Before the chair was taken the outer gates of the hall were shut, to keep out the crowds who desired to press in, and the building was in a state of siege till ten o'clock at night; Messrs. Bright, Cobden, Pellatt, and Dawson, who were announced to speak, having great difficulty in getting in at all. Unlike the *Examiner*, we see evidence of a wide public interest in this important question. We hope it will have its weight with whatever Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Cardwell or other, may supply Mr. Gladstone's place.

Mr. Milner Gibson explained to the Exeter Hall meeting the nature of Mr. Gladstone's bill.

1. It abolishes the compulsory newspaper stamp.
2. It repeals all restrictions under which newspapers now labour.
3. It allows all printed matter to postage, at the rate of four ounces for a penny.
4. It permits all registered publications to stamp a portion of their impression, with the privilege of re-transmission for seven days from the date of publication.
5. It allows all existing newspapers, not exceeding

their present size, to go by post for a penny, though over four ounces in weight: this privilege to last ten years.

The last two provisions are avowedly made to conciliate an existing powerful interest; and like all such compromises, are unjust and objectionable.

Of the 5th provision we need say little, the privilege speaks against itself. After all, it is only a sop granted to a few "influential" journals, by which they are enabled to outbid any new rivals, on the ground of quantity. It is only a private gain at the cost of a private injury.

But the re-transmission system, and the system of stamping part of the impression of a newspaper, involve a larger public question. The absurdity of the purpose becomes manifest, when the *Daily News*, after blaming Mr. Gladstone for sacrificing the revenue by lowering the single book-postage to a penny for four ounces at home, and to sixpence a pound in the colonies, proceeds to ask the privilege of re-transmission for newspapers at the rate of a farthing for the first two ounces, and a farthing for every succeeding ounce. In like manner, the *Scotsman*, after declaring (incorrectly) for years that the postage of newspapers was a loss to the revenue, has lately proposed that the newspaper postage-stamp should be at the rate of a farthing an ounce, alleging that if every paper stamped its whole impression, so as to obviate the necessity for cancelling the stamp, the number of newspapers was of no consequence to the office, but only the weight. Now, the expense of postal transmission lies mainly in the distribution, and to distribute a hundred papers of four ounces in weight gives nearly as little trouble as to distribute a hundred papers of half-an-ounce in weight.

The chief expense being, therefore, that of distribution, it is clear that a fresh payment should be made for every transmission; in other words, if a penny should be required for two transmissions, a halfpenny should be required for one. But the London papers seem bent on acquiring a bounty which shall enable them to circulate at a cheaper rate than the provincial ones—a position hardly to be defended, even on the ground of superior intelligence and freedom from local prejudices, should that ground be never so well established.

While expressing our regret that Mr. Gladstone should have found it necessary to propose such unjust terms of compromise with the existing press, we give him full credit for the earnest and complete manner in which he has dealt with that usurpation of Parliament which has lasted for 143 years; nor ought the Attorney-General to go without his meed of praise for his recommendation to make a clean sweep of Castlereagh's security system, and of Spring Rice's domestic inquisition. The stringency of the latter has, indeed, been one of the causes of the success of the Association, as the law can not be enforced without annoying persons whom the Government desires to encourage, and on whom the Association has, for some years past, invoked the penalties of the law, in the certain knowledge that Government would be compelled to extend to them a liberty which they could not controul in practice.

We can not conclude without reflecting how much evil might have been spared to the country had the repeal of the stamp been conceded in 1836; and we believe that concession would have been made if Sir Edward Lytton Bulwer had had the same honesty and firmness of purpose which distinguish Mr. Milner Gibson: but he preferred a compromise which was a defeat to the persistence which might have led to victory. In this course he was aided and abetted by the *Examiner*, which, on the 20th of March, 1836, accepted the compromise, nominally as an instalment, in an article from which we extract the following:—

This is a considerable abatement of the most impolitic impost that was ever devised; but any restriction upon information is a sin against principle, and to the extent of its operation unjust and injurious.

A tax even so low as a penny will keep the price of newspapers above the means of many of the poor, and the question is, why they should remain excluded from that knowledge of the business of the world which has been brought within the reach of those above them in condition. Sound policy and justice, which would extend to all classes the information upon which opinion is to be formed and conduct governed, require the abolition of the tax, and for that we must contend, without rejecting or undervaluing any advantage short of it.

We make these observations in answer to the objection that the reduction will not advance but, on the contrary, will obstruct the abolition of the tax.

Francis Place indignantly denounced the *Examiner*, as betraying the cause of which, it had previously been the foremost supporter; and the article in the *Examiner* of the 10th instant is a confession of the truth of Francis Place's charge; it declares that "we accepted the measure of 1836 as a fair adjustment."

When the stamp is taken off newspapers, we hope papers of such importance as the *Examiner* will be filed for reference. If the *Examiner* had given credit to its readers for recollecting its instalment article of nineteen years ago, it would scarcely have ventured on its adjustment article of the present month.

METROPOLITAN LEGISLATION.

THE DOCK COMPANIES.

If our representative system insures on all questions the fullest and freest discussion, it also permits the perpetration of many deeds antagonistic to the well being of society. If all members of Parliament, municipal councillors, or parish vestrymen could be warranted honest, and not subject to be biased by the various influences brought to bear on their position and warp their judgment, the system would be perfect. Unfortunately, they are not exempt from the imperfections peculiar to human

ity, and, therefore, the only security the public can have against their misdoings is by watching them narrowly.

The enjoyment of certain privileges implies the performance of specific duties, the neglect of which annuls the agreement by which the privilege was conferred. The Corporation of London has from time immemorial been the conservator of the river Thames, and empowered to levy rates, tolls, and dues, on all ships entering the Port of London: the conditions being, their keeping the waterway clear from sandbanks or shoals, and the sides of the river properly embanked and secure. The Corporation had also, within a certain area, full controul over the frontage and wharves, and without its licence no pier or landing-place could be established. It was also obliged to make ample provision for the accommodation of ships, and generally to make arrangements for carrying on with facility the mercantile business of the metropolis.

By neglecting the waterway the river has been in many places almost silted up; while in others, enormous shoals have been permitted to accumulate; and Government, determined to put an end to a system so scandalous, have resolved to place the jurisdiction of the river in other hands. Within the city boundary the Corporation had granted to them the entire controul over the land left bare between high and low water mark, with the distinct injunction that they must leave between the warehouses along the shore and the riverside, a space sufficiently ample to form a public thoroughfare from end to end. The right of property has been attained but the conditions have never been enforced.

With the growth of the metropolis trade increased, and the arrival and departure of ships so multiplied, that ordinary wharves and landings became insufficient for the purposes of commerce. Merchants memorialized the Corporation, and besought them to provide docks, warehouses, &c., for their convenience. True to its nature, the Corporation slowly opened its large and sleepy eyes, nodded a denial, and slept on; dreaming of turtle, venison, and champagne, purchased with the money drained from the pockets of the heavily-taxed citizens.

The merchants, disgusted, went to Parliament to obtain powers to construct docks, and levy rates on ships, landing, and storage, and thus become independent of Corporation controul. Their case was a good one, and they succeeded. A sudden impulse was given to trade. Docks that seemed enormous, had to enlarge their area. New docks were added, and still the merchants asked for more. The Corporation, declining to make docks at its own hazard, as in Liverpool, would not permit others to do so without receiving compensation; and in the good old times they had no difficulty in drawing large sums from the various companies. But they also established the important principle, that the water in the river forming the Queen's highway should also be free within the basins of the docks, and that all barges and lighters should have the right to deliver or receive cargoes free of toll or tax, the same as in the stream. To maintain this system inviolate, a clause to that effect has been inserted in the charter of every Dock Company in London.

Seizing the opportunity of the public mind being absorbed in questions involving the honour, if not the very existence of England, the several Companies have leagued together and introduced bills to get rid of their restraints, and levy rates of toll on all lighters entering their gates. Self-interest is a sleepless watcher; and there is no sturdier or honestest pack than that controuled and led by W. J. Hall, of Custom-House Quay. He sounded the alarm, called his friends together, petitioned Parliament, and by a well-organized combination prevented the shameless attempt at monopoly. On the motion of Sir James Duke, the bill, before its second reading, last Monday, was rejected by a large majority.

This is another proof that no faith can be reposed in public companies. There is no promise, however solemn, they are ashamed to break. There is no obligation, however sacred, from which they will not endeavour to escape. The only safeguard against their manœuvring is the continual watchfulness of the interested portion of the public. We congratulate the wharfingers on the success of their opposition to the great Dock Companies; and we also rejoice to find that the City Gas Company has been obliged to withdraw their bill, and for another year are foiled in their iniquitous attempt to perpetuate a frightful nuisance at Blackfriars Bridge.

THE "TIMES" REVOLUTIONARY.

Have our readers read the *Times*' leaders of the last few days? To those who have not we offer the following random samples of our great contemporary's thunder. It is worth while to peruse the series of articles—

While ministers are debating how to fill up the most important offices with the least competent persons, and considering the claims of rank, of family, and of connexion—of everything except merit and capacity—while the friends of "rising young statesmen" of the true breed are indefatigably soliciting their advancement from office to office, the people of England, who care for none of these things, are gravely taking the matter into their serious consideration, and coming to conclusions but little favourable to the stability of the present governing classes. . . . The people of England, we hope, demand, in no spirit of wild and theoretical levelling, in no spirit of hatred or animosity to any portion of the community, but in the spirit of practical reform of an urgent and intolerable grievance, that the system which excluded plebeian talent from high office shall henceforth be discontinued, and that in the army, at the desk, and in the council, those men shall be called to the public service who are best able to serve the public. We wish all success to this movement, . . . for . . . a complete abandonment of the claims of wealth, of family, and of interest, in favour of that higher nobility which the hand of God has impressed on the forehead of every man of talent. . . . Every fresh disaster will renew the demand for inquiry, and suggest new forms and orders of a more searching

radical, not to say revolutionary character. It is not the Duke of Newcastle, or Lord Bagin, or a few military gentlemen, who are the subject of this inquiry; it is not merely the army or the departments at home; it is not only the conduct and administration of the war,—nay, it is not a Government, nor is it even a House of Commons. It is the British constitution that is under trial.

REVOLT IN THE CAMP.

Last week, rumours were rife of a mutiny among the Zouaves. The rumours were quickly suppressed. They were "ridiculous, or exaggerated," "had no foundation in truth," &c. &c. This week the rumours are borne out in truth by the discontented state even of our own army, naturally tired of rotting in the trenches, by further reports of a mutiny in one or two regiments of the line, and still more by M. Kossuth's last letter in the *Sunday Times*. He says:

I have reason to believe that, to some extent at least, there must be some foundation for that report. My reason for asserting so much is, that several days before that intelligence had been telegraphed to London, I was in possession of a letter from the camp, dated January 15th, (eight days before the reported mutiny)—a letter written by a trustworthy and intelligent officer in the combined army of the "*desoppressed balagiers*," deserving credit for information and impartiality, and giving me the following remarkable information:—

The information is to this extent, that the ties of discipline are loosening, that there had been murmuring at inaction, then rage at learning that the offer of a defection en masse of the 8000 or 9000 Poles in Sebastopol had been refused; then deputations to the generals, demanding to be led to storm or home; and that "a military revolt in the French camp is very likely to happen."

CHANGES IN THE MINISTRY.

The three principal "Pecite" members of the Cabinet, Sir James GRAHAM, Mr. GLADSTONE, and Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT, held out against the Committee of Inquiry, on the ground, that it was not only a censure on themselves, but also that it would impede the public service at a time when freedom of action and confidence were especially required. On Tuesday, as we were then made aware, they had placed their resignations in the hands of Lord PALMERSTON; but at a Cabinet Council held yesterday to give them an opportunity of withdrawing it they declined to do so, and are no longer members of the Administration. Rumour has filled the vacancies. Sir CHARLES WYON is, it is said, to succeed Sir JAMES GRAHAM at the Admiralty, where he was once Secretary; Mr. CARDWELL to succeed Mr. GLADSTONE, and Mr. BAINE to take Sir G. GREY's place at the Home-office, while Sir T. G. GREY replaces his cousin at the India Board. Minor changes of course follow. Meanwhile Lord PALMERSTON, we believe, has already been in communication with Mr. ROBERT, and they have agreed on a committee of a somewhat different cast from that of which notice was given for to-night. (*Times of Thursday.*)

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT NEWSMAN furnishes but one interesting paragraph. The Queen inspected 32 of the Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards wounded at Alma, Inkerman, and in the trenches, questioning every soldier about his wounds with pleasant, grateful expressions of interest, that readily wakes up national loyalty. The three Princes and their father accompanied her Majesty. The Royal party have paid visits to the Princess's and Olympic Theatres; and the Prince Consort has presided at meetings of the commission of the Patriotic Fund and of the Duchy of Cornwall. The Prince of Wales is about to erect model lodging houses on a plot of ground cleared out from the ruins, and belonging to the estates of the Duchy. Her Majesty, Prince Albert, and the children continue in good health, and have taken frequent drives in sledges during the week.

THE COUNTESS WALEWITSCH'S BALL, delicately described as an "impromptu reunion," was thoroughly successful. Amidst the present gloomy season it seemed quite a boon to the fashionable world.

DR. JOHN SUTHERLAND and Dr. GAVIN are the two Medical Commissioners to superintend the sanitary arrangements at Balaklava and Scutari. The third Commissioner is Mr. Robert Rawlinson, the civil engineer. Mr. A. Taylor, brother of the present Secretary of the Board of Public Health, is the following gentleman have been appointed Deputy-Inspectors General of Hospitals:—Staff-surgeon of the first class J. C. Carter, M.D.; staff-surgeon of the first class J. Richardson; staff-surgeon of the first class J. Miller, M.D.; staff-surgeon of the first class H. Dwyer. Lord John Russell, to be joined by his Staff at Paris, started on his official mission to Vienna on Tuesday.—The Premier has announced the fact of Lord Lytton's recall, of which we informed our readers two weeks back.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.—The public meetings of the week are neither very numerous nor important. On Monday evening there was one at Notting Hill, on army reform. The annual meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association was held at Exeter Hall, on Tuesday evening, under the patronage of the Earl of Shaftesbury. The quarterly court of the Warehousemen and Clerks' Schools on the same evening, at the George Inn, Aldermansbury. On Wednesday evening there was a public meeting in Marylebone, to take into consideration the proposed attempt of her Majesty's Government to suspend the nomination of the Committee of the House of Commons, ordered to be appointed to inquire into the state and condition of our army, &c.

THE FIRST LIFE GUARDS' OFFICERS gave a dinner, on Monday, to Colonel the Hon. James Macdonald, on his recent return from the Crimea.

Mr. LAYARD has been called upon to explain away one of his statements in the House, which was said to reflect on the personal conduct of Admiral Dundas. Mr. Layard, of course, denied any imputation against the admiral's private character.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND has been augmented by the sum of £1200, subscribed by the inhabitants of St. John's, Newfoundland. Huddersfield has sent £2000; Doncaster, £2000; Stockton-on-Tees, £2000; the village of Hamborough, £200. The ball at Guildhall produced £500 3s.

HER MAJESTY has given £100 for the erection of a girl's school for the children of the "upper class" of labourers and mechanics, at Windsor.

THE KILT is doomed. Every soldier of the Highland brigade is to be furnished with a pair of vandyke tartan trousers.

THE LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY COMPANY have had to pay damages, to the amount of £25 in each case, for im-

prisoning two Irish merchants who had amused themselves on their transit from Preston to Manchester by cutting notches in their railway tracks.

CITY LUNATIC ASYLUM.—Sir George Grey has been inquiring as to the progress made by the City in selecting the site for an asylum for pauper lunatics. It appears no steps have been taken, and the City now appoints a deputation to the Home Office to explain the cause of delay.

PRIESTS AND POLITICS.—The *Nation* asserts, on "safe authority," that the Roman Catholic Bishops in favour at Dublin Castle are preparing a document to defeat the memorial of the Irish priests to Rome. Mr. Lucas accers to Rome a document, signed by many of the Catholic M.P.'s, "laying down the basis of his mission, and constituting his authority for prosecuting it."

NEW GOLD MINES AT MACKENZIE.—Several valuable coal beds have been found on the estate of the Earl of Wilton, at Denton, near Manchester, which are expected to be of considerable service to the neighbourhood, as well as of profit to their noble owner. They were discovered by Mr. Higson.

FRENCH ARRESTS.—In September a French refugee was arrested at Brussels, the French Government demanding his extradition for some political offence. Recently, another Frenchman of the same name, but not connected with the first, was also arrested there for the same offence. The Brussels Chamber des Misses en Accusation was called on to give him up to the French authorities, but the Chamber required first that the public prosecutor should prove the charge. The prosecutor declined; and the Procureur-General, thinking that the Chamber exceeded its power in making this demand, has carried the question before the Court of Cassation.

IN THE *Lancaster Mercury* there is an account of the Lutterworth cricket club, anxious to try the new experiment of uniting cricket with skating. Equipped with steel sandals, bats and ball, pitched their wickets on the ice, and playing out the hazardous game, the great multitude of numerous spectators. Slips, traps, and fielders, but no material injury was sustained.

THE PANAMA RAILROAD was to be opened throughout on the 29th of January.

4500 cases of cholera have, it is stated, taken place at St. Kitt's since November last.

THIRTY UNITARIAN CONGREGATIONS in England are now without ministers, and the number of vacancies increases.

30,000 or 40,000 tons of Guano are said to be now on the way to England from the Azores.

THE LATE CHARLES GIBBS, Esq., it is said, accumulated property to the amount of £600,000 in fifteen years.

LATINOING is becoming a sign of vulgarity, and is gradually dying away in New Zealand.

WATER IS THE DUTCH CANNIBAL like a wandering mendicant of kettles and pans who has left off business?—Because he was once a tinkerman. (at Inkerman.)

SIXTY SHOTS IN SEVEN MINUTES can be fired from a newly invented self-heating long-barrelled carbine tested at Hythe: immersed in water, it still retains its explosive power.

THE MEDALS AND CLASSES for the battles of the Crimea, including Balaklava, are entrusted to the talent of Mr. B. Wyon.

THE CONTRIBUTION from Glasgow to the Patriotic Fund exceeds £44,000.

THIS and of the first week in March is the time of meeting of the fleet for the Baltic.

MR. JOHN CARDEN'S health, it is alleged by his friends, is breaking down under his imprisonment. Surgeon-General Sir Philip Crampton has been sent for, to give an opinion to that effect, in order to memorialize the Lord-Lieutenant to order the liberation of this unfortunate abductor.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

Our very prisons are afflicted with the epidemic of official laxity. Three prisoners were sent to whitewash the day-labour at Newgate Gaol. During the turnkey's "five minutes" absence, they escaped by throwing a rope, grasped by one of them, and presumed to be twisted out of the prison oakum, over the parapet of the wall; each of them climbing up and descending into an unoccupied coffee-house in Warwick Square, then made his way into the street.

Forworth, a sheriff's officer, brought his action at the LANCASHIRE ASSIZES against John Wilson for thrashing him when endeavouring to serve two writs of summons. One night last March, the plaintiff attempted forcible entrance of the farmhouse of Forworth's father at Il Clifford, and the family being alarmed by his persistence, roused the defendant who knocked the officer down, and "beat him about the head, face, and arms, with a stick till he was black and blue." The jury returned a verdict for the officer—damages 40s.

ALDENHAM parades his system of having street beggars, who accost him, detained, and an inquiry made into their claim for relief. Last week, a child named Eliza Knight, aged 13 years, shivering at a house door in the Poultry, and afraid to go home to her father's lodgings in Whitechapel, was finally being rescued by her persistence, roused the defendant who knocked the officer down, and "beat him about the head, face, and arms, with a stick till he was black and blue." The jury returned a verdict for the officer—damages 40s.

Tradesmen, with advertising circulars or catalogues, should beware of indiscriminately issuing them to all who apply. Joseph Chapman obtained from 50 to 100 catalogues from Mechi, the cutter, in Fenchurch Street, by pretending he was sent from Simpkin and Marshall, who wished the same to accompany a foreign shipment. The catalogues were afterwards offered for sale as waste paper.

Too much familiarity with the law, may perhaps breed a contempt for it. No sooner are the disclosures respecting the detective policeman who employ young thieves clearly determined, than the public reads of members of that force publicly drunk and inebriate: one holding on to a lamp-post, and desiring the universe to "move on"; and a second "drinking another man's brandy and water at the Eagle Arms, Strand. They are both removed from their responsibilities. At Worship Street, a constable of the H division, is committed for perjury, on a charge brought against the landlord of the Royal Oak, Bethnal Green, for keeping his house open during divine service; not a customer having been present, according to five witnesses on the public's behalf.

The contents of the poor-box at the police courts should be carefully administered, or else impostors prevent the relief reaching objects who deserve it. Mr. Combe, at the SOUTHWARK REEF, has properly resolved to take no notice of contraband of diet, which have not been previously tested by the relieving officer, who reported on Saturday that refractory applicants refused work, and went away from the relieving office laughing, saying "Oh! we can get away from the inquiry!" John King, a medical student, charged John King with stealing his watch during the great fire on Friday evening. The defendant was very active in the crowd, and when accused of the theft exclaimed, "Your watch! you never had one." A police constable, who happened to be standing near him, and who had just a white handkerchief, the watch having been passed to a confederate. He was fully committed. No less than 100 watches changed owners during the night of the devastation.

An engine on the Barton branch of the MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD, and LINCOLNSHIRE RAILWAY (having only a single line) ran into a train detained by the snow. A passenger, named Judd, a clerk of the *Hull Advertiser*, was killed, a large piece of the back of the carriage having struck him on the neck, and he died almost instantaneously. The engine, on the opposite way, was driven by an engine, across which he came, in his anxiety to escape from a train on the rails where he was walking.

Mr. Gore, the dust contractor for Marylebone, is not very choicely served. One of the officers of the Corporation of Grand Jury to Animals obtained fines against three dustmen, using a horse in a cart with a wound two and a-half inches in diameter on the back-bone. The foreman of the yard has been committed five times for similar offences.

A coal merchant, named Keighley, and his apprentice, have been convicted before the THAMES POLICE MAGISTRATES for detaining an anchor and chain cable belonging to a lighterman named Downly. The principal witness was a discharged servant, who had helped to obliterate the owner's initials from the party.

The sea wall between the Breakwater and Teignmouth, on the SOUTH DEVON RAILWAY, has again yielded, from the fretting away of the red rock foundation, by the friction of the sand and water. More than 50 feet of the telegraphic wires have been swept off in the crash. Prettyly have the shareholders of this line paid for Mr. Brunel's ambition.

Last Saturday, one Edward Atkinson, of Preston, attempting to thaw by hot water the feeding-pipe of a kitchen boiler which had been frozen, caused an explosion which carried the oven, and the whole of the fire-place, and the stove, and the boiler, and the house walls were cracked, and two women and two children in the apartment were injured.

A woman, applying for relief at the Strand Union, was refused as having just left the Chelsea Workhouse. She took her revenge by stealing the door mat; though she stated she was driven to the theft by her destitution, as her husband had deserted her. She was committed for trial.

Mr. Bingham, of MARLBOROUGH STREET, sentenced one of a party of twelve, in Kensington Gardens, on Sunday, 14 days before the House of Correction. The constable of the gardens and another witness affirmed that some 200 persons were engaged in the fray, of which the prisoner, a youth of 19, was the ringleader.

A dealer in sweets, John Foulson, personating a policeman, seeks remuneration for counting at the expense of a number of stalls located during Sunday morning. He obtains some brandy and cheroots, and refuses to pay for them, pleading his position as a constable. The magistrate sentenced him to pay £2 and costs, on his being brought to Worship Street.

THE SUM OF £1000, together with medical and legal expenses, was awarded to a Mr. J. Gough, who sued the LONDON and NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY for injuries to the breast and lungs, which he received while a passenger on the line in February, 1854, when a collision took place with a luggage-train between Birmingham and Manchester.

OUR GOSSIP.

The City is inert, listless, stagnant, putting disdainfully already at the ministerial rearrangement. From Wood Street, from Mark Lane, from Lombard Street, comes the avowal of a "worse condition of things" (a phrase of intense meaning) than has been known since the dread year of 1825. "The mismanagement of the war with its affections of blockade, the criminal deficiencies of Government in every department inquired into, and that futile wail nostrum of committees of investigation gravely proposed by the present premier, which does not afford a ray of hope for better times, have thoroughly stupefied us all," says old Hornbuckle, the hostler in the Poultry: "throw in the pitiless frost, and the revulsion from speculative shipments in both hemispheres, and every one must allow we have the elements of a panic." Dr. John Sutherland and Dr. Gavin, are to regulate the sanitary condition of the hospitals and the camp. S. G. O. has quietly added, in a note, that Mr. Chadwick should be sent out on the scavenger service; and why not? There will be need of the powers of Hercules himself, to cleanse away the Augean mess along the army and navy to Sebastopol.

Fermont itself, as the Paris bourgeoisie may, the French Emperor has decided to visit his faithful legions encamped on the Black Sea, at Cherson. (It is Gossip says so with such decision.) The Bourse and Boulevard des Italiens quake at the chance of being left unprotected. If he go, he will surely go alone, says my informant, Colonel F.

How strange it is that no independent member has noted Mr. Gladstone's blunder in paying the South Sea Stockholders in full last year; the stock was always paid in full, and the dividends were sold and it was reduced to par, while the price of the funds stood at about 94; nearly 6 per cent being thus thrown away, and the nation all the while paying for an actuary and secretary to the National Debt!

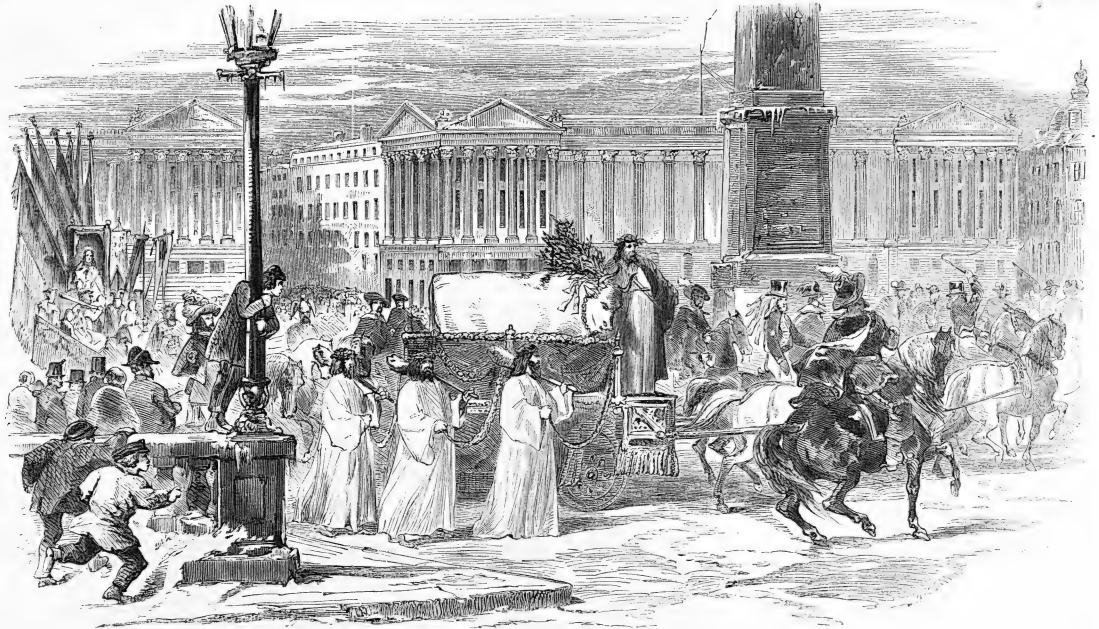
The decision of the War Minister to have the Medical Department immediately located at his house off all, has led to the clearing out of certain rooms in Fife House, which were filled with Army Lists, regimental accounts, muster rolls, &c. These valuable memoranda have been bequeathed to the care of that super-erogatory functionary, Sir Francis Polignac, who seems only too happy to arrive at the chance of occupying the half-finished repository intersecting Chancery Lane and Fetter Lane, erected for the public Records of the realm.

Parliament is about to be, or has been, asked to stay the dispersion of the Bernet collection of nicknacks and objects of vertu, some of which might be added to the works of art possessed by the department of Science and Art. Somehow or other fifty thousand pounds, the sum demanded, will be forthcoming for this purpose, and after a selection of articles by the authorities under the Board of Trade, the remainder will be put up to public sale.

At one of the London clubs (which I will not shame the members by naming), no less than 732 panicles were provided on Shrove Tuesday; a ritual observance probably owing to the university education of the majority of the subscribers.

The late Lord Mayor Sidney is consoled by receiving assurance of one most distinguished that the election of the Duke of Cambridge into the seat of the president of Christ's Hospital is informal according to precedent; a foundation Governor being usually elected. The law lives at the contraries; and though the question is settled virtually, Sir F. Kelly and Mr. Willes oppose as regards the president's post, "his office is one for which a *quo warranto* will lie (ay, surely); and that this is the course of proceeding which we advise."

By a new process of copying, Mr. Mayall, the photographer, can reproduce, on a large scale, any likeness rendered by the daguerreotype, so as to neutralize the effect of the metallic surface, and the melancholy tint of the original plate. The daguerreotype is placed before the camera, and an engraving of it on glass is obtained. From this a negative is taken, and a subsequent print, but the copy has, like the finest photograph ordinarily produced, the agreeable effect of a very fine lithograph; and as the paper surface will admit of miniature work and colouring, any degree of artistic finish may be added.



PROCESSION OF THE "BEUF GRAS."

JOSEPH HUME.

Joseph Hume, the oldest of our radical reformers, died on Tuesday last, at Burnley Hall, Norfolk. Mr. Hume was born in Montrose, in January, 1777. His father was the master of a coasting trader, and died while the future reformer was a mere infant. On his death, his wife, ill-provided, established a retail crockery shop, and by her industry and good management was enabled to educate her children well, and to put them all honourably forward in the world. When still a boy he was sent to school in Montrose, and at the age of 13 was apprenticed to a surgeon-apothecary of the town; removing to the Edinburgh University in 1793, where he remained the prescribed term of three years, and then took his degree as Member of the College of Surgeons. Soon after he graduated, he entered the East India Company's service as a naval surgeon, and before three years had elapsed was serving on the medical establishment of the Bengal Presidency. In 1803, he became interpreter, as well as surgeon, during the Mahratta war. His industry had made him master of many of the difficult dialects, and much of the hidden knowledge of India. Indeed, his industry and energy were so great, that he performed the duties of paymaster, postmaster, and commissariat officer all at once, and all thoroughly. He left India in 1808, spending the next three years in travelling in Spain, Portugal, and the Mediterranean Islands. In 1811 he returned to England, and took his seat for Plymouth, but retained it for only one year. He was not idle during this period, but devoted his time to India, endeavouring to correct the abuses of our administration there. He was elected for Montrose in 1818; and from that time to his death he remained in Parliament, the unflinching advocate of financial reform. When he entered on his career he was almost single-handed, and for a long time had only six supporters in the House—Ricardo, Moore, Crocree, and three others. But he was not to be put down. Scoffs, sneers, the tyranny of authority, were all in vain. He held to his point. At last his minorities became majorities, and he succeeded in teaching the House that important lesson, how to audit the national accounts. This is the great triumph of his long and arduous life. In his advocacy of religious toleration, of parliamentary reform, of universal and unsectarian education, he had many colleagues—some of more dazzling and soaring genius; but as a Financial Reformer, he stands alone and unrivalled.

Mr. Hume continued to sit for the Montrose burghs from 1818 to 1830. In the last-mentioned year he was elected for the county of Middlesex, which he represented—with the exception of one session, during which he sat for Kilkenny—till 1842. From 1842 till his death he represented his native district of Montrose.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

SCHOOLS OF ART, NO. 2. THE CAT, by WILLIAM MEERIS.—The position of William Meiris, like that of his father Francis, is best explained by negatives. One of the most brilliant painters of still life and common Dutch character, he has not the marvellous minuteness and powerful colour of Gerard Dow; he has not the luminousness of Rembrandt, the character of Jan Steen, or the brilliant richness of Rubens. There is always an appearance of study in his pictures; they are grouped for the painter's purpose and not drawn simply from the original. But his imitation of reality—especially in still life—is exact, almost to the degree of photography, more exact than that in perspective. His colouring is lucid; his character more pleasing than many Dutch painters; and his imitation only short of the very highest. He possesses one great advantage for the engraver, in the perfect distinctness of all his forms and tones, and in making this admission, it is with some pride that we put forward the cut in our present number, copied from one of Meiris's most interesting groups—of tradesman, girl, cat, and vegetable merchandize. (See page 33.)

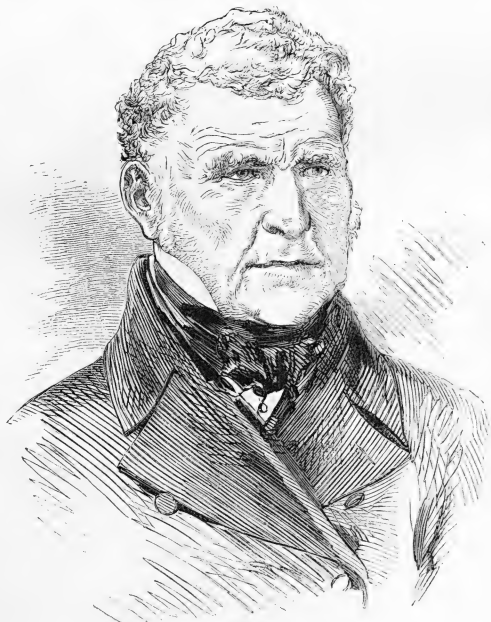
THE SITE OF THE NEW CAMP intended to be formed at Aldershot, in the neighbourhood of Farnborough, has been for some months marked out; but till this week no signs of preparation have been visible, except here and there a little flag, and some small wooden houses. Last Monday morning a large body of workmen of every description arrived by the early train at the Farnborough station, where an immense quantity of timber has been for some days accumulating. Waggons and carts with the names of celebrated London builders on them also appeared on the road from Farnborough to Farnham, laden with materials for building; and by the middle of the day on Tuesday, the frames of the huts to contain the troops, were set up for nearly half a mile

of the large and busy workshops (lately known as the bazaar, Hungerford Market) of Messrs. Herbert and Co., the eminent army clothiers of Pall Mall, who are employed by government to supply the uniforms. The Land Transport Corps is to consist of 2000 Europeans, and 14,000 Orientals; under a Director-General, Staff, with 12 Captains, 25 Quarter-Masters, 49 Sergeant-Majors, 98 Superintendents, 198 Sub-superintendents, with a naval officer attached. The corps is forming under the direction of Colonel McMurdo, formerly Aide-de-camp to the late Sir Charles Napier, and recruiting is going on rapidly.

REMAINS OF THE "MAGRITUS."—Our Engraving (page 37) gives the iron hull of the vessel as it appeared on Saturday morning, the fire even then not altogether extinguished. She belonged to the General Screw Steam Shipping Company, and has but just returned from the Crimea with sick and wounded. The amount of damage done is estimated at £50,000. Fortunately the docks and surrounding ships escaped without injury.

THE ZOULAVES.—M. de Bourmont gave the first idea of organizing the native Algerians into a distinct body; and General Clauzel, by a decree in 1830, formed them into two battalions, incorporated into the French army under the name of Zouaves. There are now three battalions of them, making a whole regiment of nine companies, one of which remains in dépôt. The Zouaves are brave, careless of death, insubordinate, and somewhat mischievous—with all the independence of semi-savages, and all the insouciance of Frenchmen. Their personal characteristic is a favourite animal always with them—monkey, cat, or dog—the monkey, though, the most popular. In charging or beating back an enemy, the monkey holds on by his master's turban, uttering shrill cries, and making all sorts of wild gestures. The Zouave is incomplete without his animal companion. (See page 41.)

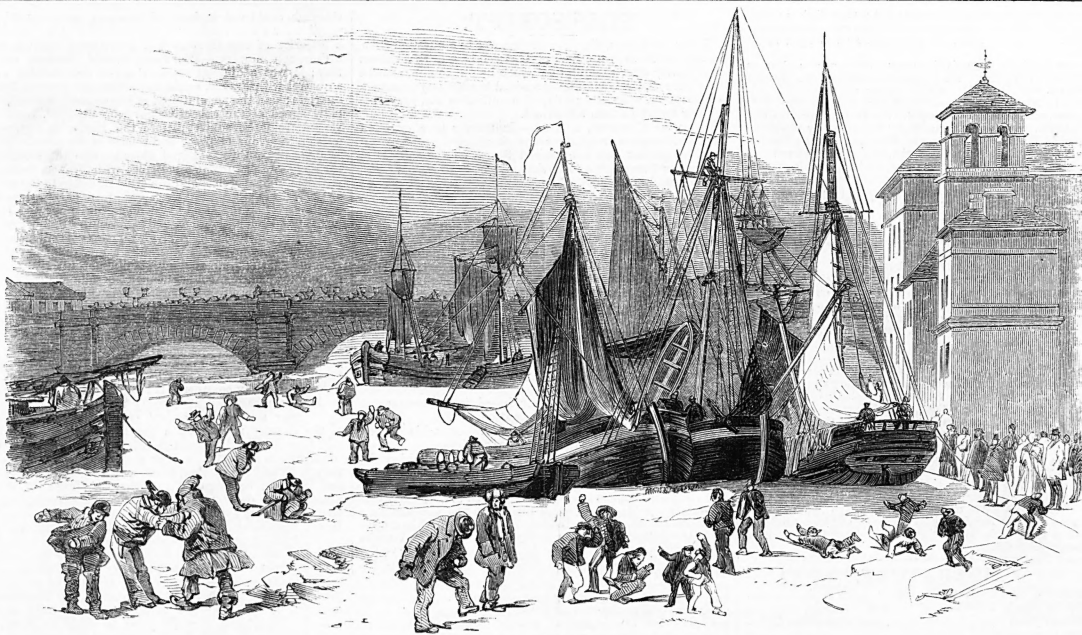
THE BEUF GRAS.—Tuesday the *Beuf Gras* paid his traditional visit to the Tuileries. Such a *Mardi gras* is not remembered by the "oldest inhabitant." Instead of the soft breezes which generally prevail in Paris at the end of February, and treacherously tempt people to forget the coming March winds, we had a hard, obstinate, black frost, and snow many days old, so frozen into the pavement, as, in many places, to defy the praiseworthy efforts made to scrape it off and cast it away. In addition, the heavens were veiled by thick murky clouds, which, ever and anon, showered down more snow, the whole morning long. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, a considerable crowd assembled in the Place du Carrousel to watch for the arrival of the devoted beast and his followers, which was announced for 12 o'clock. He did not arrive, however, till past one, the state of the streets being, I suppose, his excuse for keeping the Emperor waiting. As the hour of suspense wore on, the patience of many shivering mortals became exhausted. I observed one whole family file off, the father consoling his children with a pun—"We must abandon Sebastopol (the name of the *Beuf Gras*); it is too cold." Nevertheless, there were a great many people at the gates, when the Emperor gave the unexpected signal that the public were to be admitted to the Inner Court. There was then a race along the slippery esplanade to the central door of the Tuileries. In a few minutes some court footmen issued forth from the great window opening to the balcony, and placed carpets, foot-warmer, and a velvet cover over the railings to prepare for their Majesties' arrival. The procession was much more splendid than any that has been seen for many years. In consequence of the slippery state of the streets, the *Beuf Gras*, instead of walking, was placed on a car drawn by six horses. I do not mention this as one of the improvements. There were at least a hundred knights, crusaders, musketeers, Turks, Persians, and noblemen à la Louis XIV., all on horseback. Besides these there was an allegorical car containing Old Father Time, Venus, Cupid, and many gods and goddesses in attire which, I hope and believe, was warmer than it looked. The little girl who repre-



JOSEPH HUME.

in length; and these usually quiet commons, the home of snipes and wild-fowl, presented an appearance of the greatest life and bustle. There are to be huts for the encampment of 20,000 men, which are expected to be up and serviceable in the course of the ensuing month. One of the principal features in this vast structure, it is said, will be a model hospital. The lines have been traced out by General Sir Frederick Smith, R.E. (See page 35.)

THE NEW LAND TRANSPORT CORPS.—We gave last week a sketch of the uniform of this new corps; we give now an engraving



THE ICE AT BILLINGSGATE.

sented Cupid was taken up stairs to the Empress, who kept her ten minutes, and gave her money and sweetmeats.

Fossil Fish.—Much interest has been excited by the finding in the upper chalk of Kent, of a large group of that extremely rare fish the *Beryx superbus*, of Dixon; the only known group of fossil fish ever found in this formation. The fish are in a high state of preservation, the bodies uncompressed, the mouths open, the gills and fins extended, proving undoubtedly that the fish must have been living, and all grouped together when they were surrounded by the chalk. The extreme rarity of the fish may be judged by the fact, that the extensive collection of chalk fish in the British Museum, does not contain more than a small portion of the body of one of them. The fossil is in the possession of Mr. Henson, 113A, Strand.

THE WEATHER.

On Sunday last, owing to the extraordinary fineness of the day and the intensity of the frost, an unusually great number of persons repaired to the ice in the different parks to enjoy their favourite amusement. Six persons had their limbs fractured, and upwards of thirty sustained injuries on the face and head. The thermometer, at 9 A.M. on Sunday, was as low as 14 degrees. On Monday last her Majesty the Queen, and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, with several of the Royal children, were on the Serpentine in their sledges. On Tuesday, the footpaths were crowded by members of the nobility and gentry. Thirty ladies and gentlemen were seriously injured by being run down and cut by points of the skates. The same day (Tuesday) no fewer than 15,000 noblemen and gentlemen were on the ice in Regent's Park, and nearly 16,000 in St. James's Park. Altogether, 93,000 persons were on the ice that day. The Thames was frozen over to within three miles of Richmond, so as to enable persons to pass over.

All navigation in the river is stopped, and all the various docks are frozen up, which has not been the case for at least 16 or 17 years. On Monday morning persons were sliding and skating in the West India Import and South Docks. The river has been filled with ice, and some distance below London Bridge immense blocks were to be seen at low water four, and even five, feet thick. The canals have been all frozen up, and the number of labourers, in consequence, thrown out of employment is enormous. In Liverpool the amount of suffering is great, and will be greater still unless the wind changes so as to enable the large fleet of inward-bound vessels to enter the river. In the neighbourhood of Kendal there is not much snow, but the frost continues extremely keen. The canal and river Kent have been covered with skaters, and even some of the lakes have given solid footing. In the North-Midland counties, the weather has not been known to be so inclement for 40 years, as it is now. The roads in the vicinity of Beverley have had to be excavated for miles. In Mid-Yorkshire, and the West Riding, all the canals and watercourses are frozen up, except in the case of the Aire and Calder, in which a screw steam-tug is kept daily plying to and fro, to break the ice, which in many places is a foot thick. At Lincoln, the Brayford-mere, the Fossdyke, and the Witham are completely covered with strong ice, enabling skaters to go from Lincoln to Boston, a distance of 35 miles.

In Southampton, the weather has been more severe than is remembered by even the "oldest inhabitant." A large quantity of fish, principally grey mullet, has been washed into the dock by the tide, and, in consequence of the severity of the weather, has become an easy prey. In the neighbourhood of Penzance an immense number of both land and water, indigenous and migratory, birds, have resorted in search of food.

For the last fortnight or more, a large fleet of homeward-bound ships have been locked out of the "chops" of the channel by the easterly wind, while the frozen state of the river prevents the coasters going to discharge at the wharfs. The wind has prevented the colliers from leaving the Tyne, Wear, Tees, &c., and their departure has been rendered equally impossible by being frozen in. Quantities of ice are said to be in the Channel, more particularly in the Downs—a very rare occurrence. Crowds of

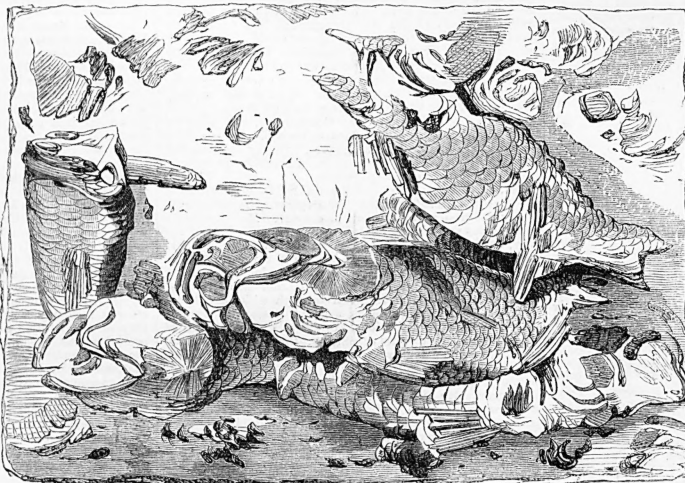
Senora Perea Nena from Madrid, with an entirely new company of Spanish dancers, who have never before appeared in this country. Miss Cushman has been playing *Romeo* and *Meg Merrilies*—the former in a style that made us feel, notwithstanding our dislike of seeing a woman act a man's part, that if not the *Romeo* of our imagination, she is the best *Romeo* we have seen. "Little Bo-Peep" was pretty and attractive to the last, though not quite deserving the glowing eulogium of our friend, Mr. Punch. He may say of his theatrical notices, in the words of John Kemble's magniloquent impromptu on his almsiving—

"It is not often that I do these things;
But, when I do, I do them handsomely."

The *Lycerum*, the *Amelrit*, and the *Olympic* have each their unvarying evening's entertainment—various enough in character, and agreeable all. Charles Mathews is still as aggravating as can

be desired in "Aggravating Sam," and "Prince Prettytup" as pretty, both the persons and the getting up, as ever. Of the *Adelphi* pieces we have spoken. And if there be any of our readers who have not yet seen "Tit for Tat," "The Lucky Friday," and "The Yellow Dwarf," who need to be told how inimitable is the serious grotesquerie of Robson, how excellent the Frenchman of Alfred Wigan, and how an efficient company, that rare thing now-a-days, makes all go pleasantly, to them we say, that there is no better evening's entertainment to be met with, in its way, than is to be found in Wych Street.

We had only time last week to mention the fact that the first concert of Mr. ELLA'S MUSICAL WINTER EVENINGS was given on Thursday. We now recur to it, and it is a pleasant remembrance, because there were two novelties which deserve special mention. The first in rank, as in place, was Mozart's Quartet, played by Ernst, Goffrie, Hill, and Piatti, a most charming composition, the larghetto in particular full of Mozart's delicious melody. It is one of a set of three composed in 1789 expressly for artists in Berlin, and affords opportunity to each of the executants in turn for the display of the beauties, and of his mastery over the difficulties, of his instrument. The violoncello part was especially prominent, and was admirably played by Piatti. We may safely prophesy that this quartet will become a favourite at these concerts. The other novelty was the Quintet by Paner, which we should rather have described as a Concerto for the pianoforte, with wind accompaniments. It is no disparagement to this clever composition to say that it will not bear comparison with the quartet we have just mentioned, nor with Mendelssohn's beautiful quartet, in E flat, which followed it. It is well written, and pleasing, and was nicely played by Herr Paner, with Messrs. Barret, Lazarus, Snelling, and C. Harper. The greatest charm of Mendelssohn's quartet was the "Canzonetta," a thoroughly characteristic melody; and the delicacy with which the union passages were played was marvellous. It was followed by Pensées Fugitives, for pianoforte and violin (Paner and Ernst); and a pianoforte solo by Herr Paner, in which he delighted the audience by keeping up a continuous accompaniment in the extreme treble and bass, while the melody rang out clear, distinct, and expressive, from the middle of the instrument, concluding a delightful concert. Mr. Ella, we learn, had some doubts, owing to the depression produced by our disasters in the East,



LATELY DISCOVERED FOSSIL FISH.

persons have assembled to witness the unusual spectacle of persons skating on the Thames close to Pickle-Herring-Stairs, where the men belonging to a Dutch brig, after sweeping a large area of ice, commenced skating, to the great amusement of all the spectators. Our view of Billingsgate will be readily recognized.

THEATRES AND MUSIC.

We have but little to report of theatrical matters this week. "L'Etoile du Nord," which was announced for Monday last at DRURY LANE, has been postponed, on account of "the care requisite to place it on the stage;" it is now fixed for Monday next, with Mlle. Jenny Baur as the *Catherine*; and we are promised that it shall be produced "on a scale of splendour and magnitude hitherto unequalled."—At the *HAYMARKET*, with this week closes the engagement of Miss Cushman and the run of the pantomime, "in consequence of the return, on Monday next, of

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about renewing these winter concerts; but we are glad, as we were sure all those who were present, that he resolved to continue them, and we hope the result will show that he was right in his decision.

The fourth of Mr. DANDO'S QUARTET CONCERTS was given at Crosby Hall on Monday. The programme consisted of a pleasant Quintet in E flat (Op. 106), by F. Krommer, the first public performance in this country, played by Messrs. Dando, Mellon, Hill, E. Blagrove, and Lucas; a beautiful Trio in G minor (Op. 69), for pianoforte, flute, and violinello, by Weber, nicely played by Miss Binfield Williams, and Messrs B. Wells and Lucas; Corelli's Trio in A (No. 3), a delight to those who, like us, are lovers of that quaint, old-fashioned style; a new Quartet in G, by Alfred Mellon, which we rejoice to find an improvement on that played at the last concert; and Mendelssohn's Quartet No. 33 (Op. 16), the first movement of which is as charming as the last (a figure with four subjects) is ingenious. Miss Messent, who sang Mozart's beautiful but excessively difficult song, "Resta, o cara," a scenic ballad by G. A. Osborne, and Molière's pretty and elegant "Maidens of Germany," we cannot compliment; the pianoforte accompaniments were capitally played by Mr. W. Dorrell.

Mr. ALLCROFT'S GRAND ANNUAL CONCERT, with its hosts of artists, drew a crowded audience to the Lyceum on Wednesday. The programme was of necessity of a most miscellaneous character, and the applause at the end of each piece was boisterous—encores being called for almost—as a matter of course.

EXHIBITIONS.

MADAME TISSAUX'S GALLERY of distinguished men, in wax, retains its popularity and demand of the public's attention. The interior of ALBERT SMITH'S SALE, is similarly enticing—the pleasant light, the gay decorations, the brilliant scenery, and the unflinching spirits of the host, as usual repay the visitor who faces the bleak wind and the chilly influence of London by night just now.—Mr. G. A. Osborne's stories, LACROIX is realizing all the success we predicted for it and his unaffected art.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE DIRECTORS are preparing a new attraction; a court to illustrate Indian manners, arts, and customs. A nucleus for such a court already exists in a fine *salvatore* copies of the remarkable fresco paintings of the Ajanta caves, which were made for the East India Company, and have been lent by them to the Palace, where they are exhibited in the gallery over the Assyrian Court.

LITERATURE.

A HANDBOOK OF PROVERBS. *Comprising an entire republi- cation of Ray's Proverbs, with additions, and a complete alphabetical index, in which are introduced large additions, as well of Proverbs as of Sayings, Sentences, Maxims, and Phrases.* Collected by HENRY G. BOHN. Bohn.

Until the appearance of this volume, the collection made by John Ray, the celebrated naturalist, and which had become a scarce book, and in which the English book of proverbs, the first 280 pages of the present volume contain the text of Ray intact; and the remainder (more than one-half the number) are occupied by an alphabetical index—an advantage not possessed by Ray's editions—so that reference can readily be made to the most complete mass of proverbs yet published. The title of the book is fulfilled, for, in addition to the proverbs, properly so called, there are miscellaneous sayings, maxims, and phrases, often interesting as illustrations, though they do not possess the charm and patness of the proverb, nor its practical application to common life.

The importance of proverbs may be imagined from the very wise men who have devoted time and study to them; and their usefulness is at least evident in the dignity, as, through them, the condensed wisdom of our ancestors has been handed down to us. To use their own words, they are "little apples of gold, in pictures of silver." But, like all national wisdom, they are of course owe their origin to individuals, and are probably altered before they receive their final currency, so that their authorship becomes lost. It is probable, however, that the art of printing, which will inevitably subvert the larger number of such sayings in the mass of current thoughts, will also preserve the origin of those that survive. Even in our own day we seem to witness the growth of proverbial expressions. The remark of Lieut. Drummond, which came with such tremendous force upon the Irish landlords—"Property has its duties as well as its rights"—has become a proverb of state.

Quintilian recommends the proverbs as a help to the art of speaking and writing well. Attention is often secured by their use where ordinary language would not command it, as it establishes a common point of departure. Aswald Dykes, who made a small, but valuable, collection of proverbs, was so impressed with their importance, that he said, if judiciously employed they would "never fail of exciting by their quaintness, of delighting by their shortness, and of persuading by their authority."

The gentle collector of adages, Erasmus, defines a proverb to be "a well-known saying remarkable for some elegant novelty," as Dykes has altered it "a proverb is a celebrated saying, famous for its remarkable elegance, wit, and novelty." Proverbs, in fact, are not the domain, but the wit of nations; they are standing illustrations, ready to the tongue that wants them. The man that is over rich in them may, indeed, set one against the other; like the sarcastic wag, who cheered his fellows at their work by crying, "Many hands make light work," but followed it up in a breath with "Too many cooks spoil the broth." In short, all writers in all tongues have dallied with proverbs. Mrs. Cowden Clarke has made an interesting assortment of those used by Shakespeare. The Spanish language is rich in the ore, and Cervantes has availed himself of the instrument to address himself to the whole mind of his country. Sir Walter Scott did the same with the Scottish saws. These last have been restored by Mr. Bohn to the dialect of the country; for many of them, to render them more intelligible, had been diverted to the local brogue, to their manifest injury in terseness and point.

The following are a few examples:—

A' things are gude untry'd.
A man canna bear a' his ain kin on his back.
Ane is nae see soon he'd as hurt.
As ye mak' your life ye mair it on't.
Ane may lead a horse to the water, but four-an'-twenty canna mak' him drink.
A man canna thrive except his wife let him.
Bird's good, but breeding's better.
Fresh fish an' poor friends grow soon ill-favour'd.

POSTSCRIPT.

HOUSE OF LORDS, FRIDAY.—In answer to a question from the Earl of ROSEN, the Earl of GRANVILLE said that almost immediately after the question which he put to him, about a fortnight ago, the Government advised Her Majesty to issue a proclamation, appointing a day of humiliation and prayer.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY.—In answer to a question from Mr. RICARDO, respecting the correspondence between the Government and the United States on the subject of international arrangements in time of war, LORD PALMERSTON said it would not be desirable to lay that correspondence on the table of the House. He was, however, happy to say that the relations between our Governments were as friendly as the best wishes could desire.

LORD PALMERSTON then rose and said: I have to state to the House that three members of Her Majesty's Government have intimated their intention to resign the offices they have hitherto held: I mean the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the First Lord of the Admiralty, and the Secretary for the Colonial Department. These officers hold their offices at present only until their successors shall be appointed. Under those circumstances, and considering that these officers are members of the Government in this House, I trust the House will not think I am unduly pressing upon their indulgence if I propose to them not to enter into any public business, but to adjourn until to-morrow.

Mr. DISRAELI said that his party heard the announcement with deep regret and sorrow.

Mr. WILSON then proposed that Mr. Roebuck's motion should have precedence before the other orders.

In reply to Mr. DISRAELI, LORD PALMERSTON said his right honourable friends who had succeeded would make explanation during the discussion on the selection of the committee. Mr. DUNLOP obtained leave to bring in a bill to alter the law of intestate movable estates in Scotland.—The Common Law Procedure Act Amendment (Ireland) Bill was passed.—The reports of the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means, were brought up and agreed to.—On the order for going into committee on the Army Service Amendment Bill, Mr. M. GANNON proposed to some words of LORD PALMERSTON, inquired whether compulsion was contemplated in recruiting the army?—LORD PALMERSTON replied that the only form of compulsion in the regular army was the bounty offered. As to the Militia, there was a power by law of conscription, but he should not be bound to use it. He was sure that the words of LORD PALMERSTON could not refer to the army.—Mr. STAFFORD inquired if there was a want of quinine for the use of the sick and wounded in the Crimea?—Mr. F. PEEL would make inquiry.—The bill went through committee.

HOUSE OF LORDS, FRIDAY.—LORD PALMERSTON said, in order to explain away a false impression with regard to the return of Sir John Burgoyne from the Crimea, that Sir John simply returned to resume his post of Inspector-General of Fortifications, and had been relieved by General Jones, whose comparative youth rendered him better fitted to bear the rigours of a winter campaign. He also stated that the Government had taken steps to supply the army in the Crimea with summer clothing.—LORD GRANVILLE, in reply to LORD LYNDHURST, explained the circumstances which had led to the delay in blockading the Russian ports in the Black Sea.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY.—The seceding Ministers gave their several explanations. Sir JAMES GRAHAM took the lead. The gist of his explanation was that he thought as two members of the late Government had been sacrificed to the will of the country, the rest should have got off scot free, and Mr. Roebuck's Committee have been abandoned, especially as public opinion was so strongly in favour of Lord Palmerston. The Committee was a vote of censure; the inquiry was unnecessary; it was unjust as well as dangerous. Holding this opinion from the first, he had, nevertheless, consented to join the Government, but when he gave his consent he was confined to his bed. He might be taunted with deserting his colleagues, but they had deserted him; for he was determined to run away from the inquiry and they refused to accompany him.

Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT's position differed from Sir James's, for he, as connected with the War Department, was more directly referred to by the vote of censure. Mr. Roebuck's motion was twofold, it related to the home-conduct of the war, and also to the state of the army before Sebastopol. It was the duty of Parliament to inquire into the conduct of ministers; therefore he had no objection to inquiry, nor had he anything to conceal. But the motion was a vote of censure, and should have fallen through with Lord Aberdeen's Government. Besides, a Select Committee was not the best, most constitutional or most efficient mode of proceeding. As a vote of censure, the motion was now valueless; as an inquiry it would be a mere sham. He would be no party to it.

Mr. GLADSTONE began with a warm panegyric on Lord Aberdeen. He had quitted the Government of Lord Palmerston because, in a choice of difficulties, he felt the selection made to be a fatal one. He read the objections he had offered to the motion on the 29th of January, and asked whether it was possible that a person who had so argued should resign his office rather than be a party to a measure he had so denounced. The question, he observed, was twofold—it related to inquiry into the state of the army in the Crimea, and into the conduct of the Government departments. He should be prepared to submit to the former, but the larger and most serious question was, whether a committee should be appointed to investigate the state of the army in the Crimea, and he denied that the House would act constitutionally by entering upon such an investigation pending a great military operation. A committee of punishment it was not intended to be; what it to be a committee of remedies? This was not the most efficient or most expeditious form of remedy. Then, what was it? It was a committee of government, taking out of the hands of the Ministers of the Crown their most important and most delicate functions.

Messrs. Bright, Gaskell, Drummond, Lowe, Laing, Wortley, Walpole, Disraeli, Sir J. Pakington, and others, made their comments on the ex-ministers' statements.—Mr. Bright was convinced those gentlemen had acted honestly; but he regretted their secession, because he did not like to see Lord Palmerston's Government overthrown.—Mr.

GASKELL could not understand how any one could think it possible for a first minister to reverse the decision of so vast a majority of the House.—Mr. DRUMMOND insisted upon a thorough inquiry.—Mr. LOWE would proceed no further; it was a difficult matter; might even involve us in a quarrel with France, as the inquiry would go into French quarters; and the appointment of the committee would be a blot upon the executive government.—Mr. LAING said that at the outset of the inquiry, and that opinion diverged from the subject before the House to express an opinion in favour of peace and reform in the army.—Mr. S. WORTLEY saw three cardinal objections to the committee, the danger of disturbing an alliance with France, the inconvenience to the service, and the cruel injustice to the absent.—Mr. WALPOLE expressed his astonishment at Sir James Graham's relation of the matter, and that opinion of the House instituting such an inquiry, and referred to a number of precedents bearing upon the case.—Mr. DISRAELI contended that if there was no precedent it was their duty to make one.

LORD PALMERSTON said he should not utter a word of criticism upon the course which his late colleagues had thought it their duty to pursue, persuaded that they had acted upon a sincere and honest conviction. He had from the first objected to this committee, and his objections in some degree still remained; but it was impossible not to see that the great majority which had affirmed the motion had acted upon two distinct motives. One portion thought an inquiry ought to take place; but another supported the motion because they considered it to be a vote of no confidence in the Government. The country took up the question in a different sense; it rose in the public mind as a question of the country reacted upon the House. He found himself, therefore, in this position—that he could not persuade the House to rescind its vote or postpone the committee, although he had hoped that, when he had stated the changes and inquiries he proposed to make, the House would have consented to defer it. But he could not undertake the attempt to abridge the proposals for almost already settled. He replied, they did mean to abide by them; the instructions with which Lord J. Russell was provided were founded upon them, and the Government were prepared to negotiate in good faith. If they failed in obtaining a peace consistent with the security of Europe, it would be their duty to prosecute the war with a vigour necessary to bring it to a successful and successful termination.

Some discussion took place on the House proceeding to the nomination of the Committee; and divisions were taken on the names of Mr. Bramston and Mr. J. Ball. The Committee appointed consists of—Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Drummond, Sir J. Pakington, Colonel Lindsay, Mr. Layard, Mr. Ellice, Lord Seymour, Sir G. Lewis, General Peel, Mr. Bramston, and Mr. J. Ball.

The Consolidated Fund Bill (£2,000,000) was agreed to; the Nuisance Removal Bill went through committee; and the Army Service Act Amendment was read a third time.

PARIS, THURSDAY, FEB. 22.—The *Euphrates* arrived at Marseilles last night from Constantinople, with dates to the 12th inst.

Baron de Bruck had had an audience with the Sultan. His successor, Baron de Koller, had arrived.

Intelligence from the Crimea up to the 10th states that a thaw had set in, and that the communications with the camp were difficult. The Russians continued their sorties, which were constantly repulsed, and the allied fleet was prepared to co-operate in an attack with the army. The English had placed eighteen guns of heavy calibre in position. The general health of the troops had improved. On the night of the 9th the French cannonaded the town.

Other Asia had returned to Balaklava on the 9th, when a council of war was held. That general leaves for Euphrasia without delay.

The southern forts had been mined by the Russians.

BERLIN, FEB. 22.—Under date of the 12th, St. Petersburg, we learn that Prince Menschikoff has sent the following despatch:—"On the 30th we succeeded in discovering superfluous works of the French leading towards the fortifications. With the aid of artillery we destroyed, on the 29d, a portion of the enemy's gallery. On the 6th the French, trying the same means, attempted our countermines. The attempt turned to their own disadvantage. On the 8th the play of a new mine enabled us still more to destroy the enemy's works. Meantime our artillery successfully replied to the fire of the besiegers. At night detachments of volunteers continually harass the enemy's trenches, and obliging them to beat to arms, compel them to suspend their works."

VIENNA, FEB. 22.—It is reported that Lord Raglan has tendered his resignation. On the 12th General Pelissier sent a message to Paris, stating that no successful attempt could be made on Sebastopol for a month to come. The inclination of Persia in favour of Russia becomes daily more evident. Turkey and Greece have not yet come to an understanding.

PARIS, FEB. 22.—The general budget of receipts and expenditure for the year 1856 was presented to-day to the Legislative Corps. It shows an excess of receipts of £4,404,486.

A letter from Corfu of the 10th February states that Sir Henry Ward, the ex-Governor of the Ionian Islands, has been named Governor of Ceylon. His successor has not yet been appointed.

Sir John Forbes has resigned the office of medical superintendent of the new civil hospital at Smyrna.

The Government of New Grenada has declared its neutrality in the present war.

At Southwark Court several of the East-end rioters have been brought before the authorities. Three prisoners were examined—two remanded till Wednesday next, and the third sent to the House of Correction for one month. The remainder of the rioters were sent to Hoxton Prison Lane.

THE COAL, COKE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE of the Corporation of London met yesterday, to distribute among the necessary coal-whippers, porters, dock labourers, &c., the money, (£1000) placed at their disposal on Thursday.

Two Loves: Two Lives

CHAPTER II.

WHEN I first went to Miss Maskell's house I met no one there. For all I saw, those two women lived utterly isolated from the world. The doctor indeed visited them occasionally, and he was the only person, excepting myself, that seemed to have any sympathy for, or relations with, them. But at last a young man suddenly appeared; "up from the country," he said, "where he had been shooting, down at Lord Warton's seat." He was very handsome, this new-comer and evidently old friend; and with an air of wealth and luxury about him that could not fail to strike me in the midst of their crushing poverty. His embroidered shirts, expensive suits, his patent-leather boots and primrose-coloured gloves, all spoke of a widely different style of life to that in which he placed himself; and nothing ever struck me as so inharmonious and incongruous as the presence of Mr. Thirlstone in that shabby, poor, half-furnished room of the Maskells! But it rendered him, not them, discordant. It did not make their poverty mean, but his ostentation odious. He had also a peculiar manner of command and indifference—sometimes of contempt—especially towards the nurse, which made me at first suppose he was a relation; for this manner I have always noticed as a distinguishing mark with rich relations. But I soon found that he was Mary's engaged lover, and that they had been engaged for about a year and a half.

I hated this man. Not from jealousy, though. I was not vain enough to dare to be jealous of anything belonging to her. She was not a woman to excite such feelings in me. I might as well have been jealous of the sun or the stars. But I hated him because he was cold and indifferent to her; because he did not sufficiently value her, or appreciate his own good fortune in possessing the love of a being so divine as she; because he thought he honoured her in this betrothal, when in point of fact she exalted and ennobled him. As I have said, she was a late discoverer of her proprietor! It was for her that I was jealous, not for myself. Her love was a prize kings might envy of each other, and it made me sometimes almost mad to see the lordly carelessness and egotism with which this young fox accepted riches which made the whole world poor.

His was a provoking kind of foppery. There was no personal vanity in it, though he was handsome enough to have executed any amount of self-admiration. To me, the deformed awkward hunchback, his beauty and manly carriage were the things of all others to be most coveted. But he did not seem to understand this. He had the vanity of wealth and the tyranny of manhood, but no pride of person. His own feelings were all that he ever consulted. The wishes of others weighed as thistles upon against lead if they clashed with his. He was essentially a lord of creation, whose will was the fiat of his whole world. He loved Mary as well as he could love anything out of himself. But he loved himself the best. He would not have given up one hour's ease or luxury for her, and where she did not conduce to his happiness, he divorced his life from her. She stood in the place of a set of diamond studs, or a thoroughbred horse, or a Blenheim spaniel, or a late-discovered Raphael—something that was superior of its kind to what his friends possessed, something that it pleased him to call his—and where it did not please him he did not recognise it; as he would not have taken his horse into a drawing-room, or worn his diamond studs on the moors. It was a pleasure, but subordinate to his real life.

Mr. Thirlstone and Mary had been engaged already a year and a half; and it seemed not unlikely that they would be engaged still another year and a half. He would not marry her, because he would not take her mother home with them; and Mary would not leave her. He was resolute on this point; she, on her side, resolute too. So, without anger or bitterness—simply the irreconcilability of two conflicting negatives—the marriage was postponed; and Mary never murmured nor thought her lot hard, excepting when he got angry, which he did sometimes, and called her cold and selfish. I found out afterwards, that she had just passed through one of these scenes the first day I ever called; and that her appeal to me for spiritual support had been made in a state of moral faintness and despair, which had led her the first step into that worst of all forms of atheism—disbelief in the wisdom of the Right and Good.

I used to wonder at this man, this Mr. Thirlstone. How he could see a woman he loved existing in poverty and misery, without hastening to relieve the one and share the other, was a problem I could never solve. To me, the chief charm of love had always seemed to be the privilege it gave of sharing each other's sorrows—of bearing one another's burdens. To him, love meant only pleasure and obedience; but of the division of suffering he understood nothing. He would not take his part in the suffering about him now, still less adopt it into his own life. He never saw Mrs. Maskell if he could avoid it. As for trying to amuse her, bearing patiently with her ways, and giving her the Mary opportunities of escape, by taking the charge of her for half an hour—for she wanted a companion only, not a nurse—anything of this kind never entered his head. He would have thought himself mad if it had. I thought him worse than mad because he did not.

I did what I could. I used to sit with the old lady—poor old soul!—and listen to her garrulous complaints by the hour together; or I used to read to her, or play cribbage and back-gammon, with her, and cheat myself that she might win. For it used to make her so dreadfully angry when she lost, and used to excite her heart—which was feeble—to such a frightful extent, that this stratagem was matter of humanity as well as of policy. Mr. Thirlstone used to call this ridiculous, and always won his game whenever he condescended

to play with her—which was not often, you may be sure. And which, of course, ended in a violent scene that gave him just cause for saying he would never see her again. For I do not wish to palliate her excessive faults while accusing Mr. Thirlstone. She was very wearying, very tiresome, it must be admitted. But then she was ill, and old, and poor; and a woman.

At last the old lady grew quite fond of me, and used to ask for me frequently, at office hours and at all unseemly and impossible times; and I, who had always been a queer awkward kind of fellow, unlike every one else, became quite a deft nurse and could relieve Mary now without any drawback; so that she could get out a great deal more than she had done, and be with her lover alone. I thought she would like that. So she was freed and happier than she had been like for a long time; better in health also, for she began to be sickly from such long confinement.

Mr. Thirlstone used to laugh at me unmercifully, but Mary always took my part; once angrily; and once I heard her say, "Charles, don't ridicule goodness which you cannot imitate." And that speech repaid me for all. It was my ridicule and censure of the whole world for one of her gentle smiles and regretful glances, she would not have pitied me! For she paid me well, since her payment was my heaven.

Time went on; the chain of those banded lives clanking harshly against each other, and sorrow and discomfort where only love and mutual help ought to have been. How could Mary love that man! I could understand her love to reason, to her mother, nor to her husband, her violent temper and low type of character; but I could not understand her clinging to any one so devoid of all high feeling or real morality as Charles Thirlstone. But I knew very little of woman's nature then, nor how she loves because she is loved, or fancies so; nor how even the strongest among them are incapable of judging the man they love.

I was not of the feeling, but instead of accepting; and I forgot that in her sorrow Charles Thirlstone had been the only bright point in her life. And yet he was essentially so hard and rough, despite the smoothness of his manners! "I tell you I will not have her!" I heard him say one day. "Mary, the thing is impossible. What! in my society to have such a creature as that old woman always with me! I should be the laughing-stock of all my friends! The very idea of it is mad!"

I heard him pace about the room. I was in the old lady's room, playing at dominoes with her, and finding it very hard to make her win—she was so stupid.

"Well, dear Charles, I do not wish you to be unhappy for my sake," Mary said, in her quiet but resolute manner; and I knew so well how she looked, with her head and rather bent but her body straight, and her hand smoothing back her hair; "but you know that I have only one answer to make to you again and again—I cannot leave her; and if you will not have her to live with us, I cannot live with you myself."

"How, can you propose it, Mary? I ask again, can you wish me to be tortured by such an old hag—them—such a fretful, wearisome, old woman as that in my house, calling me her son? Be reasonable, Mary, be reasonable!"

"No, dear, I don't ask you to do this. I only say what I cannot do. Had my mother been a different woman, I might have left her; but it is because of her very temper—because of her very defects and disagreeables that I am bound to remain with her. No one else would treat her well—no servant would put up with what I can, and do, gladly, if I can make her happy."

"Then we are no nearer than before, Mary?"

"No, Charles; not if you hold to this condition."

"I do, most firmly."

I knew that Mary shook her head then sadly; that she went near to him, and took his hand, and said, with a quivering lip but resolute eyes,

"And I on my part hold to mine!"

So they parted, as they had parted many times before, with the barrier as high and as impassable as ever; and, on his side, crusting over with ice in which no thing can live.

Mary pined and fretted very much. Her position was certainly very painful; and yet I never could comprehend her love for that young man! This was the one flaw in her otherwise perfect character (at least, I think it perfect) which remains with me as a mystery, and a flaw, too, to this day. I suppose it was right and natural, but I don't like to think of it.

It was such a lowering of herself; it was such a moral misalliance on her side!

Things went on pretty much the same for a few months. All was very dark and very dreary. The old lady grew rather worse, and much more fretful, and Mary was fading away like a flower without rain, or sun. Mr. Thirlstone came seldom; and when he did come it was nothing very agreeable he brought with him; he was so cold and sharp, that Mary once told him he had better not come at all, as it was such an evident pain to him to do so. I loved her better than ever when she said that! For it was not spoken pettishly, but with a grave and woman-like dignity, without passion or excitement, that made her inexpressibly grand and beautiful. He was the young man to his sense for a short time. He behaved much better for a week after that.

Mr. Thirlstone was a great deal in the world. He seldom passed an evening at home, or with his affianced wife, and what came to pass was very natural. In one of his grand friend's houses he met the Honourable Juliana Trevelyan, one of the belles of the season. It was a fairy-like beauty; a little creature that did not come up to your elbow, but that ditted round you like a robin in a sprig—a passionate, frail, fair thing, with the pride of Lucifer, and the beauty of an angel! with wealth, position, birth—not left undowered with one single attribute for woman's social perfection. Mr. Thirlstone fell in love with her the first evening he saw her, and that had been the cause of his coldness to Mary. He had loved Mary only for her beauty, and when he found another as beautiful as she, and in a style better

suited to him, Mary vanished from his affections like a cloud from the hot summer sky. The die was cast, the decree made, and now it only remained for him to determine on the mode of separation.

He came to Mary one day, cold, abrupt, rude—yes, though he was a gentleman—rude—"Mary," he said, "this trifling cannot continue any longer; I owe it to myself to end it." "Trifling, Charles!—who is trifling?"—"You, Mary; and you know it."—"Explain yourself!"—"Mary quietly, though her face flushed crimson, and her lips quivered. "You know my position as well as I do myself: and you know in your heart that I cannot act differently to what I have done."

"This is precisely what I do not know, Mary. It seems to me exactly the reverse. If you had ever loved me you would have acted in everything contrary to your present mode; and it is because I have awakened, at last, to the conviction that you do not love me, that I call your conduct trifling, and that I say I owe it to myself to end this affair."

"At your own time or good pleasure end it, Charles," said Mary, proudly. "If, as you say, I do not love you, I must have continued the engagement with you for sordid and most shameful motives. You are rich—you are well placed in the world; if I do not love you, these must have come in as the determining influences?"

"Perhaps," said Mr. Thirlstone, carelessly.

"This ends it, then," said Mary, rising. "After such a word we can never be more than utter strangers to each other." She bowed and moved towards the door.

The sunlight was pouring into the room. As she passed over its track on the floor, and moved into its light, she seemed almost glorified. It made a kind of golden atmosphere in which she was transfigured. The wonderful effect of the light on her hair and pale cream-coloured skin, that skin which harmonizes so well, when of a certain shade, with brown hair and hazel eyes, struck Mr. Thirlstone, accusatory of the brilliant love of "Charles." He saw that he had broken off so abruptly. If that old woman had but died she would have been a splendid wife! She would have made an immense sensation in London! But, after all, Miss Trevelyan was as beautiful; and if he had not the pride of producing a hidden treasure like Mary, he should have that of carrying off a noted prize like Juliana from half a hundred competitors. He was not, then, as Mr. Thirlstone thought, mad; and he would marry Juliana instead.

This mental calculation was made in less time than it has taken to repeat it. He told me afterwards what had passed through his mind; once when I met him by chance in the evening. He had been dining and had taken too much champagne, else he would not have been so communicative. Besides, I drew him out. I did not know him then. When he had ended his survey of his position he said,

"It is time," he said, rather more courteously, "that so hopeless an affair should come to an end. It has aged me by many years, Mary, as such a condition of things would age any man who really loved. I feel it best in every way to end it—do you not agree with me?"—"Perfectly," answered Mary, her hand on the lock, and not turning her head.

"Good-bye, then," said Mr. Thirlstone, holding out his hand. "Do not let us part bad friends, Mary."

"Good-bye, Mr. Thirlstone," and Mary put a lifeless hand in his.

"I wish you happiness and prosperity."—And then, with the same dignified step and carriage, she left the room; and when the servant went to call her to go to her mother, she found her lying insensible on the floor.

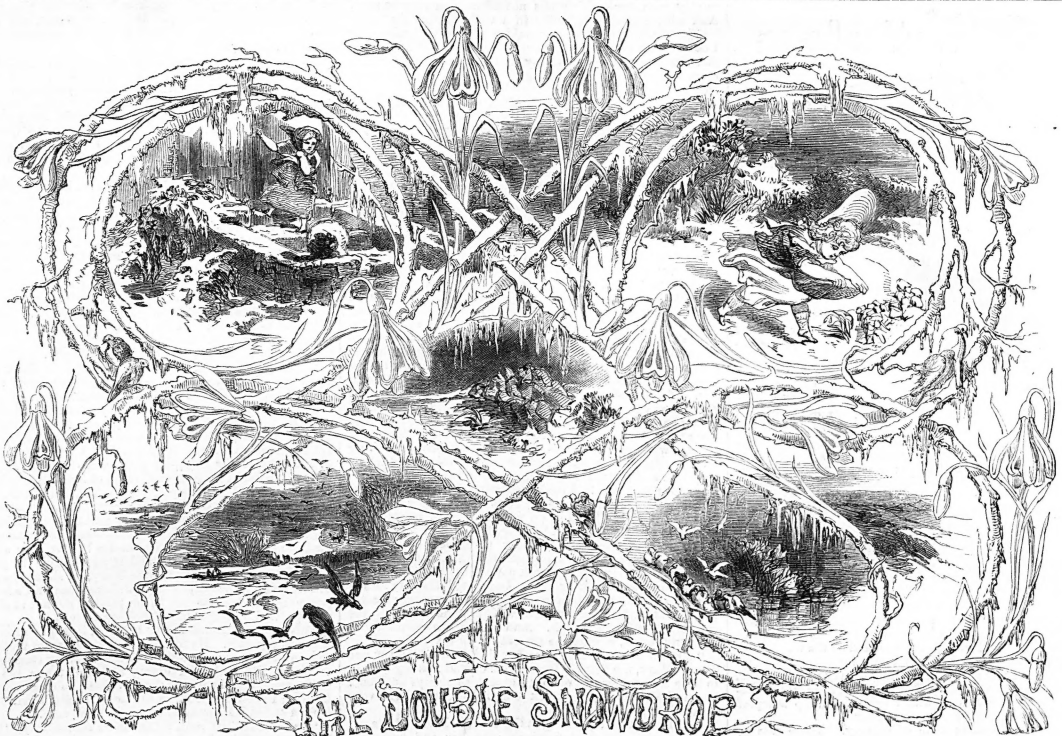
It seemed to grow more necessary to the Maskells. Mary clung to me as if I had been her brother, and the poor old lady was never happy when I was away. It was the first time in my life that I had been of use or pleasure to any one—the first time that I had borne up the weight of another's happiness; and the two most powerful feelings which my new position woke up in my mind were gratitude and love. I was grateful to the gods for their goodness, and grateful to Mary beyond the power of words or even beyond the power of thought to define, but I feared, nevertheless, the responsibility of their trust. Once a faint thought stirred in the depths of my heart, but I thrust it out of sight, and slew it savagely and buried it, terrified at it, soft and loving as it was. It was a sacrilegious thought, a mad, wicked, presumptuous thought. I did secret penance for it long after it had died and left nothing but a tomb with a cypress growing over it.

The old lady died, suddenly and painfully; I mean under certain painful circumstances that made her death very harrowing to her daughter. Mary bore up well for a time; but when the excitement had gone this nervous exaltation sank too, and she fell ill as suddenly as if a thunderbolt had struck her. I nursed her through her sickness; I supplied her with all she required; but for me she must have died or gone to a hospital. She was very poor now; and I was selfishly glad that it was so. About this time, too, I was taken into partnership by the firm to which I had been articled. It happened fortunately; it was as if I had had a guardian angel who had arranged my life for me. When Mary recovered I was rich man, though a hunchback still and ever. But, at least, I could guard her from poverty and from work—my sister, my more than sister!

It was a spring evening when Mary and I were sitting together, she paler and weaker than she used to be, but well now according to the doctor's word. I turned to Mary suddenly, and found her eyes fixed on me with a peculiar expression. There was a tenderness, a loving, almost beseeching look in them I had never seen turn on Charles Thirlstone. I scarcely knew what I did, but half unconsciously I took her hand. Was I dreaming? Was I mad? or did she clasp her fingers warmly over mine and carry my hand to her lips? Had I died in my sleep and woke up in Heaven? Oh! it could not be true! "Mary! Mary! you so gifted, so beautiful, so good, so divine, and I, a poor deformed hunchback, with only love to give to you, and such inestimable riches. Can your love light so low, my Mary?"

"It can rise so high," whispered Mary, weeping. "It can distinguish now between beauty and virtue."

I remember no more. I believe I fainted from the too passionate gush of joy. Since then I have learnt the depth of her love for me; I know the depth of mine for her, and the extent and intensity of my devotion. And I know that with such love as ours sorrow can never come in.



THE wind was cold and the sky was dark; the nights lay like iron on the earth, and bound plants and trees and grass and all things living, in their clanking chains of frost; and the days hung harsh and leaden, and frowned like jailers over the prostrate form of Nature. The birds hid themselves under the hollow roots of the shivering trees; the grubs and insects coiled round the fibres of the dying plants; the dormouse in his nest, and the mole in her cavern, died of the cold beneath; no sun in the sky above, no warmth in the heart of earth—all was naked, bleak, and desolate—a tomb, and not a home.

One morning a faint white speck was seen peering up from the frozen lawn. It looked like a little bead, an unthawed hail-drop, or a tiny ball of snow; but the children all ran joyfully about it, laughing and clapping their hands, and crying loudly, "The first snowdrop! the first snowdrop!"

Little Alda—herself the snowdrop of her family—with her long amber-coloured hair, and her skin like transparent ivory, wanted to pick the flower. She said it looked so cold and lonely out there; it would be so much happier if it could be kept warm in her bosom! She was a little thing that could not speak plainly yet, so she had not much knowledge of what snowdrops would like best. But Mona, her eldest sister, put back the little hand with a gentle smile, and said: "Let it rest where God has placed it, Alda; He knows better than we what is best for snowdrops. You may be sure that it is in its right place, wherever He has made it grow."

Though Alda did not understand exactly what her sister meant, she obeyed her; looking up fixedly in her face for a minute, as if undetermined, or perhaps only puzzled. But though she minded what was said to her, she yet kept hovering round the flower, and built up a wall of broad blue pebbles round it, and hung a little veil of gauze, as an awning, over it, and watched and watched till the daylight went, pitying that poor solitary flower out all alone in the dark night, and dreaming of it, too, when she lay soft and warm in her own little cot by the side of mamma's bed.

The next day a very fierce wind swept over the earth. It tore and tossed Alda's thin gauze awning; and, if it had not been for her pebble wall, it would have struck the snowdrop too, and have scattered it like white wool on the ground. As it was, even behind this shelter, the little flower swayed hither and thither, and covered beneath the bleak wind when it swooped lower than usual, and looked all dead and fainting as it hung its head languidly beneath the dull grey morning. Poor snow-

drop! it had a rough entrance into life—like those poor children you see half-naked in the streets on cold winter days, without food or clothing or shelter of any kind. I wish we all took as much care of them as Alda did of the snowdrop on the lawn!

For many days the wind was too fierce and harsh for the little ones to venture into the garden; and though Alda spoke often of her flower, and dreamed of it, she could not see it—mamma said they were not to go out. But one morning when she woke, the bright sun was shining in at the windows, and the beautiful clouds were all red and golden in the sky; such lovely clouds! such bright colours! with the sun standing in the midst, like a hero under his banners. The wind had fallen, and the birds were singing so merrily! so merrily! instead of the wild howling they had heard so long; the whole face of nature was changed, and all wore one large smile—one bright, dimpling smile—that greeted Alda like a voice when she woke from her sleep and looked up.

As soon as breakfast was over, mamma said they might go out: so Mona ran upstairs for Alda's garden-hat—a large straw flapping hat that shaded her blue eyes from the sun—and they both ran hand in hand on to the grass to look for the little snowdrop. There it lay quite safe. The pebble wall had protected it, and had kept the fierce wind from it, which else would have torn it in pieces, like a wild wolf tearing a white lamb. The stalk was green and fresh; the petals white as snow, and firm; and the drooping head drooped still, as is the modest way of snowdrops, but only bashfully, not from languor as before. The flower looked strong and happy; and even Alda no longer pitied it when she saw how it opened its leaves to the dear sun, and drank in its rays, and grew brave in the spring air, like a happy child.

The birds were hopping and twittering round the flower as if they were welcoming it to joy and life; and as Alda stooped to see it nearer—holding back her long hair with one tiny hand for fear that it should fall on the blossom and perhaps break it—she saw that the petals, which hitherto had been strained close over its heart, had slightly opened; and she saw, too, that something lay hidden beneath, like a jewel in a silver case. And all day long the snowdrop felt something stirring in its heart; all day long the sap ran through every vein and fibre of its leaves and petals, until the evening came down lovingly, like a mother bidding good-night, and laid a gentle hand of sleep and blessing on the flower and on the child.

The next morning the snowdrop awakened up with the first streak of morning. Still that strange mystery was

stirring at its heart; still that quick mounting of the sap and the gush of life and joy from root to leaf; and still the birds sang welcome, and the sun shown down cheerily. Then little Alda, running out into the fresh spring day—the soft wind lifting all her yellow hair, and kissing roses on her cheeks—came to the snowdrop as the first flash of sunlight gleamed over it, and struck the secret hidden in its heart. The white petals had unfolded; and Alda saw, nestled close within, a second life, a second flower, another snowdrop with its gold-green heart, cradled like a child within its mother's arms.

"Was it not wise, Alda," said Mona, putting her arms round her little sister, "to leave the snowdrop where it was born? Was it not right to shelter it certainly, but to leave it where God and Nature placed it? When the time came, see how that dear God has rewarded it! And, Alda, perhaps we children may learn from this that when there is no joy and no pleasure for us, and when all is very dull and very dark—as when poor mamma was ill, and we were not allowed to play for fear of making a noise—that in a little time, if we are good, God will reward us for our sorrow, as he did when mamma gave us baby, and we were all so happy when it came. See, Alda, darling, God has rewarded the snowdrop too.

Little Alda remembered what Mona said for long years after; and more than once, when she was very sorrowful, and thought that a time of joy would never come again, she thought of the bleak winter into which the snowdrop on the lawn was born; and then she remembered the springtime that blessed it afterwards, and the little second flower—the joy of life—that sprang out as its reward from its heart.

ACROSTIC CONUNDRUMS.

An acrostic conundrum is made by taking two words of the same number of letters and having some connection with each other, as for instance, rose-bush, tea-pot, Seville oranges, &c. Then give a list of definitions of different words or things, of which the first and last letters of the first definition give the first letters of the two words; the first and last letters of the second definition, the second letters of the two words; the first and last letters of the third, the third letters of the two words; and so on. As for instance—"A flower and where it grows":—

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1. To steal. | R o B... rob. | } Rose Bush. |
| 2. Two Vowels. | O U... o u | |
| 3. Transgressions. | S in S... sins. | |
| 4. Our Mother. | E ar H... earth. | |

And now let us see which of our young friends will find out the following acrostic conundrum:—

A Conserve, and where it is kept.

1. To leap.
2. A town in Syria.
3. A small seed.